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greatest cricketers of all time

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WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY AND FULL TV GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Disaster for Chirac as the Left romps home

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Left won a convincing victory in the French parliamentary elections last night, overturning the massive majority enjoyed by the Centre-Right and ushering in an unpredictable era of power-sharing between a Socialist-led government and the conservative President Chirac. The result also raised fresh doubts about a single European currency.

Moments after voting ended, the polling organisation CSA predicted that the combined Left, made up of Socialists, Communists and other left-wing parties, would win about 310 seats in the 577-seat parliament, with 264 for the Centre-Right coalition. The extreme-Right National Front was tipped to gain two seats, its first parliamentary representation since 1988, while the Greens were expected to win their first seat ever.

Two other polling groups predicted that the Socialists would win a majority in the French National Assembly without Communist support, making it almost certain that Lionel Jospin will become the next Prime Minister. Alain Juppé, the unpopular Prime Minister who agreed to step down last week in an attempt to stave off defeat, conceded less than an hour after the polls closed.

He said: "We did not manage to convince the French people that we were going in the right direction. The people have spoken. Their decision is sovereign. We all respect it. I wish good luck to those who will now govern France and I wish good luck to France."

M Chirac called the snap election nearly a year early in an attempt to secure a renewed

parliamentary mandate in the run-up to European economic and monetary union. But the decision turned out to be the most costly and ill-advised gamble of his career. He now faces up to five years of power-sharing with a hostile Government after the voters' emphatic rejection of his austerity policies, higher taxes and record unemployment.

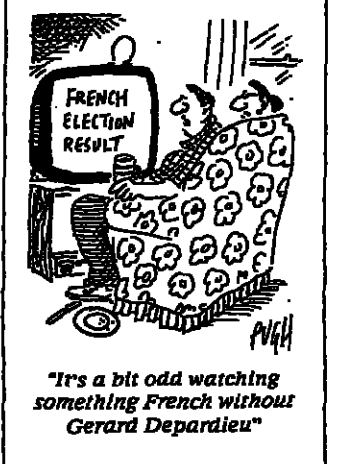
M Jospin has sought to play down fears that a Left-Right "cohabitation" would critically weaken the country and has insisted that France would still join a single European currency. But the result leaves the future of EMU hanging in the balance, since his party has urged a flexible interpretation of the Maastricht Treaty requirements and ruled out further cost-cutting to meet them. The Communists campaigned vigorously against the single currency.

Although France experienced two periods of power-sharing under President Mitterrand, the Socialist victory may provoke a prolonged period of political instability. M Chirac, whose presidential term has five more years to run, cannot call another election for at least a year, but if he appears sufficiently weakened the Left may try to force an early presidential election.

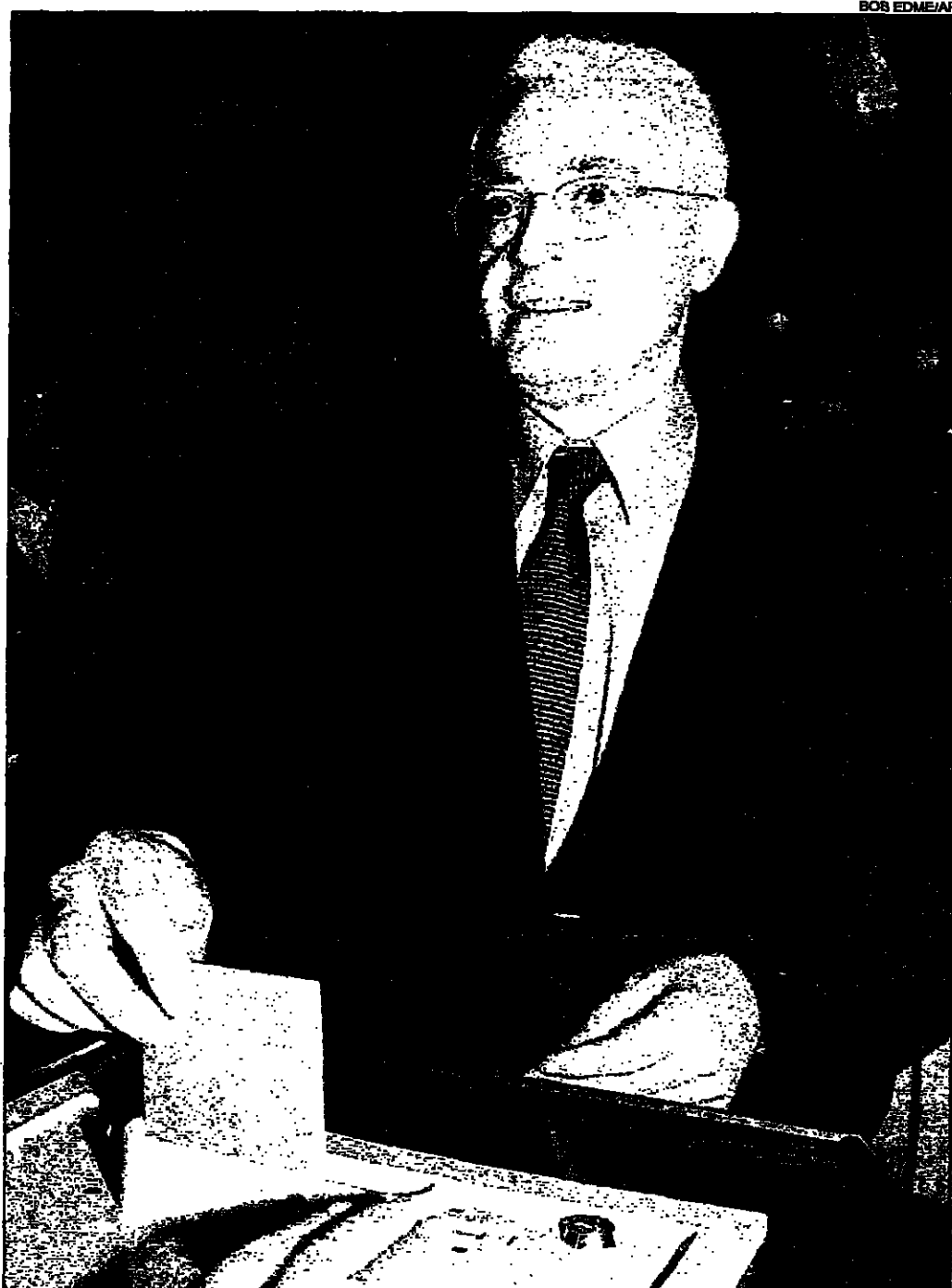
The Centre-Right had pinned its hopes on a high turnout, after 31 per cent of voters shunned the ballot box in the first round last Sunday, but almost as many people abstained again yesterday. "This is a clear failure, we have to recognise that," Bernard Pons, outgoing Transport Minister and a close confidant of M Chirac, said.

M Juppé was ousted after the first round and the Eurosceptic Speaker Philippe Séguin brought in as the coalition figure-head. He appealed to France not to return to the "ghosts of the past". But his public reservations on EMU and his emphasis on social policies could not turn the tide.

Under the French constitution, the division of powers in a "cohabitation" is sufficiently vague to presage a prolonged struggle between M Chirac and M Jospin, who competed for the presidency in 1995, over the control of government policy. Presidents have traditionally claimed the right to oversee foreign policy, but whether the single currency project would fall into that category is a matter for discussion — and almost certainly dispute.



"It's a bit odd watching something French without Gerard Depardieu"



Socialist leader Lionel Jospin voting yesterday in Cintegabelle, southwestern France

A mood of the deepest pessimism swept the Gaullist headquarters in Paris even before polls closed last night, as the President summoned his leading collaborators to watch the results at the Elysée Palace.

The outcome was a bitter personal defeat for M Chirac, who arrived in power as one of the strongest presidents of the Fifth Republic and who last night became one of the weakest. The National Front leader,

Jean-Marie Le Pen, said that the President should resign. "This is not a defeat, it is a disaster. Jacques Chirac has been beaten twice, in votes on the first round and in seats on the second. He played double or quits and lost. He should draw the consequences and hand his mandate back to the people."

Loosing hand, page 10
Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Blair calls on single mothers

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR will go to a rundown south London council estate today to challenge Britain's 800,000 jobless single mothers and the young unemployed to enrol at job centres and defeat welfare dependency.

Mr Blair, who has launched a wide-ranging social security spending review, will make clear that it will be unacceptable for unemployed people to continue to draw benefits if they reject placements on work, training or education schemes. He will urge single parents without jobs to go to government employment office centres to enrol for training courses. "We want to help them to help themselves," he will say.

While there will be no reference to compulsion in the speech, his first outside Westminster since he became Prime Minister, continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 21

Child stranded after coup flies to Britain

BY LIN JENKINS

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl is expected to be reunited with her British parents today after being abandoned amid the chaos of the evacuation in Sierra Leone.

Rezmate Conteh is thought to be among 200 people flying home this morning on an aircraft chartered by the Foreign Office to rescue British nationals. The toddler was found wandering among hundreds of refugees waiting to be repatriated last Friday after the military coup. She had her British passport strung around her neck and £80 in cash in her pocket with the business card of a person in Britain.

Roger Crooks, the American hotel manager who found her assembled with others in the Mammy Yoko hotel in Freetown, made arrangements for her to join the last group to be airlifted to safety. She was accompanied by Vanessa Schillaci, his American girlfriend, on one of the last helicopters to the USS Kearsarge,

which took 31 Britons to Conakry, capital of neighbouring Guinea.

Mr Crooks said his girlfriend had since placed Rezmate in the care of another Briton. He would not say whether the name on the card was that of a parent, but a couple with the same surname — Angela and Michael Conteh — were among 161 Britons who arrived back on Friday on charter flights.

The Foreign Office said yesterday they had traced the girl's mother in London. "Both she and we believe the girl is in good hands and likely to be travelling on the charter flight to Stansted."

Members of the Sierra Leone community in Britain have offered to look after her child if her parents are not among those already evacuated. Mussar Conteh, who works for Christian Aid in Milton Keynes, said: "My heart goes out when I hear on the World Service what is happening and if there is any way we can help this little girl we will."

Britain's envoy, page 12

Goldsmith family at hospital bedside

Sir James Goldsmith's family were at his bedside in a hospital near Paris. The billionaire businessman and founder of the Referendum Party, who is 64, is critically ill with pancreatic cancer.

Sir James's third wife, Lady Annabel, was joined by his daughter Jennifer Khan, who flew in from Pakistan. Page 3

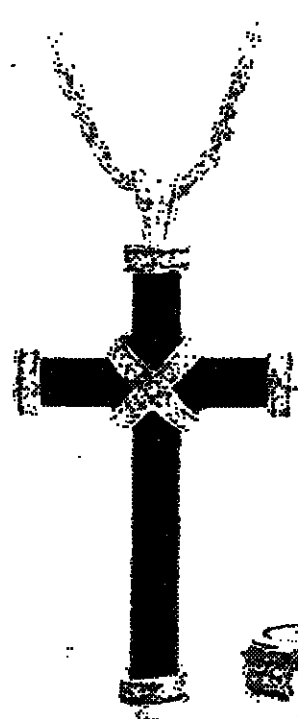
Clarke backed

Michael Heseltine endorsed Kenneth Clarke in the Tory leadership contest while Baroness Thatcher urged the three right-wing candidates to form a pact. Page 2

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Thatcher renews feud with Heseltine

RIVALRY between Baroness Thatcher and Michael Heseltine, who ended her reign as Prime Minister, reignited yesterday in the battle for the Tory leadership.

The former Prime Minister has intervened for the first time to urge the three right-wing candidates to form a pact to ensure only one fight in the second round to stop Kenneth Clarke's campaign gaining unstoppable momentum.

But Mr Heseltine, who has never been forgiven by the Thatcherites, publicly endorsed Mr Clarke. He also confronted Lady Thatcher by warning MPs not to be wooed into a "stop Ken" campaign.

Relations between Lady Thatcher and Mr Clarke, an ardent pro-European, have

been cool since he became the first Cabinet minister to tell her she should resign in 1990. Friends of Lady Thatcher maintained yesterday that she was not motivated personally.

"She is an admirer of Ken's political skills," one said last night. But she fears he would back a single currency and cede further sovereignty to Brussels.

The former Prime Minister has made clear that she will not publicly endorse any of the three right-wingers. Peter Lilley, Michael Howard and John Redwood, who have all ruled out, in principle, joining the single currency.

But her intervention behind the scenes reflects growing concern on the Tory Right at the strength of the Clarke

■ Old rivalries have resurfaced in the Tory leadership contest with the former Prime Minister attempting to block Kenneth Clarke's challenge. Andrew Pierce reports

campaign. Mr Clarke, who was the architect of the former government's wait-and-see policy on the single currency, yesterday received a further boost when Sir Norman Fowler, the former party chairman, publicly backed him. "He has one of the best temperaments of any politician today. He is entirely unflappable. In short, he has all the qualities that a leader of the Conservative Party needs," he said.

The Clarke campaign will

move out into the country when it sends out 1,000 copies of a video in which Mr Clarke, flanked by Mr Heseltine and Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, spells out his vision for the future.

Mr Heseltine, in an article in *The Sunday Times*, infuriated the Eurosceptics by warning that the party would split unless they dropped their campaign to rule out British entry into a single currency. "Unity requires mutual tolerance and respect. Keeping

options open on Europe is part of that process." In an interview on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Heseltine told MPs not to seek a "negative, stop Clarke" strategy because he might be a long way ahead in the first ballot. "That is not the way to win popular esteem, to command the heights," he said.

Mr Clarke was "at one" with the party on the "vast range" of European issues — except the single currency, said Mr Heseltine. But this issue was "not absolutely at the mainstream of what we will be discussing almost certainly at the next election."

But the three right-wing camps believe that Mr Heseltine's comments and the intervention by Lady Thatcher

could harden opinion against Mr Clarke. Some of Mr Clarke's allies feared it could strengthen the appeal of William Hague, whom they fear in a final run-off.

One close ally of Lady Thatcher said: "She is like a number of us: she is anxious that after the first ballot we should rally behind one person to ensure a right-wing candidate succeeds." Ken Clarke is her big worry. Ken Clarke stands for everything she fought against on Europe. He is Geoffrey Howe but with a pint of better instead of a glass of whisky. This is not just about the single currency. It is about the whole issue of closer integration in Europe."

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

Camelot directors to be warned over licence

The directors of Camelot will be warned today by Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, to give up huge bonus payments or risk losing their National Lottery licence. Mr Smith has asked civil servants to calculate the costs to the taxpayer and to good causes of terminating the contract, which expires in 2001. Sources at the Department of National Heritage emphasised that nothing had been ruled out although the cost of ending Camelot's licence would probably be prohibitive. The directors will be told that the public is "furious" at the 40 per cent rise in boardroom pay last year when profits and payments to good causes fell.

Another E. coli victim dies

An elderly victim of last year's *E. coli* 0157 outbreak in central Scotland died yesterday, bringing the death toll in the outbreak to 20. The woman died in Bankview nursing home, where she lived, in Banknock, near Falkirk, Forth Valley Health Board said. She had been confirmed as having the infection during the outbreak that hit Scotland in November and December, and did not fully recover. There have been six deaths in the nursing home.

More MPs to hear call-up

Members of Parliament are to be offered a greater chance to spend time with the Army, Navy and RAF as part of a campaign to expose them to life in the Armed Forces. The Government is considering at least doubling the number of MPs who go on the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. At present eight volunteer MPs are dispatched to the three services for 21 days every year. The MPs are expected to take part in all aspects of military life.

Hurd misses out on Master

Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, is thought to be out of the running to replace Sir Michael Aitken as Master of his alma mater, Trinity College, Cambridge. It is not as has been suggested, because Hurd does not consider himself intellectual enough, but because the Master of the university's richest college, who is appointed by the Queen on the Prime Minister's advice, traditionally retires at 70. Mr Hurd will be 68 at his next birthday.

Murder link investigated

Police investigating the murders of Lin and Megan Russell in Chillingham, Kent, last July have been informed of another hammer attack, 30 miles away. A woman threatened by a man with a hammer in an apple orchard near Strood at the weekend managed to escape. A police source said: "Because a hammer was used, any links to the Chillingham case will be examined."

Species controls tightened

Europe-wide rules came into force yesterday banning or tightening controls on trade in more than 25,000 species of animals, birds and plants. The European Wildlife Trade Regulation will stiffen controls at the EU's common external frontier and require individual member states to bring in tougher national laws against wildlife crime or face prosecution in the European Court of Justice.

Computer traces drug trail

A computer system to track South American drug cartels and international money launderers in the Caribbean is being set up by police and the Foreign Office. The network will target traffickers and their cargoes in the British dependencies of Anguilla, the Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and Montserrat, which are known conduits for drugs into America and Britain.

Call for free eye tests

More than 150,000 people in Britain do not know they are suffering from glaucoma, a disease that could make them go blind, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, launching an awareness campaign, said half a million people over 60 did not have regular eye tests because of the cost. The charity called for free tests for over-60s and Afro-Caribbeans aged over 25, who are at high risk.

Divorcees escape equity trap

A recovery in the property market is leading to an increase in the number of divorce applications, according to solicitors and estate agents. Couples who agreed to divorce several years ago, but had to keep their homes because of negative equity, are now able to proceed. Mortgage lenders report a rise in the number of requests by couples to transfer title deeds from two names to one.

Attacks close care centres

One in ten day-care and residential centres for people with mental health problems have been forced to close over the past five years because of attacks, graffiti and hate mail campaigns by the local community, says the mental health charity MIND. Nearly one in three planned centres have been abandoned over unjustified public fears that the centres would be violent or paedophiles.

Garden train track derailed

A model train enthusiast has been ordered to remove the miniature steam railway built for his grandsons behind his home in Shipbourne, Oxfordshire. South Oxfordshire District Council says the land, bought by Geoff Manning, 54, for £3,000, must be restored to woodland. "If I had to return it to its previous condition I'd need a lorry load of old mattresses to chuck in it," Mr Manning said.

'Political' make-up of Whitehall increases

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE number of political appointments in the Government has been increased by a third, from 40 to 60 posts. Tony Blair will announce today amid Conservative determination to press for a Commons debate on the issue.

The prime minister may be able to fend off his critics with the appointment of Rachel Lomax, Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office and former pupil of Cheltenham Ladies College, to the key post of strategic director at the num-

ber 10 policy unit. By selecting a civil service high-flyer to one of the most influential posts in government, Mr Blair would be able to argue that his government was not made up of Labour placemen.

Government sources confirmed that Mrs Lomax, 51, a former vice-president of the World Bank in Washington, had been involved in discussions about the role and was expected to transfer from the Welsh Office, a post she has held for just under a year. Mrs Lomax has been prominent in recent Whitehall discussions about devolution and had worked on a draft bill on the proposals for Wales in advance of Labour's election victory.

Mr Blair has been looking for an overall head for the policy unit for some time. The search turned to the higher ranks of the civil service after a small number of business people rejected the post because the salary was not high enough.

Mrs Lomax, who is divorced with two adult sons, has been frequently canvassed for senior government posts and has also been named as a possible successor to Sir Ter-



Rachel Lomax who is described as "very, very clever, hard-headed and businesslike"

ence Burns, Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, and to Sir Robert Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. A move to head Mr Blair's expanded policy directorate, which is to focus on longer term strategy, would not preclude her from future promotion.

She presently earns between £95,000 and £99,999 a year at the Welsh Office but the head of the No 10 policy unit can earn up to £154,000. Mrs Lomax earned her reputation at the Treasury, which she joined as an economist at 23 after gaining a first in history at Girton College, Cambridge, and a second degree at the London School of Economics.

While her sons were small she worked part time for seven

years but when she returned full time she was determined to show her colleagues she was not slacking and accepted the strenuous role as Principal Private Secretary to the former Chancellor, Nigel Lawson.

She impressed ministers and colleagues and rapidly rose through the Treasury ranks and as a deputy secretary she was seconded to the Cabinet Office where she worked alongside Sir Robin Butler at the heart of the government machine.

Last night government sources were predicting an early announcement that she was to head a team of 15 policy advisers, who include David Miliband, a former policy aid to Mr Blair in opposition, who

has already been appointed policy director. "Mr Blair wants his new team to plan longer term strategy and to focus on a second term in office and the next election manifesto," one said.

Mrs Lomax is described as "very, very clever, hard-headed and businesslike". She is prepared to fight her corner and can sometimes antagonise colleagues. But Whitehall sources also said last night she had survived a particularly bitter divorce seven years ago from her former husband, Michael, whom she met at Cambridge and was particularly close to her two sons, Thomas, a doctor, and Daniel, a disc-jockey.

Other figures recruited to the policy team include Derek Scott, a former economic adviser to Mr Blair, who also worked as special adviser to former Chancellor Denis Healey, in the Callaghan administration, and Roger Liddle, who is to work on European policy issues.

Mr Liddle, a former founder of the Social Democratic Party in 1982, also worked as a special adviser to Bill Rodgers, now Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank in the last Labour government and last year was a co-author with Peter Mandelson of a book on New Labour thinking. Last week he resigned his consultancy job with Prima Europe and is to start work at Downing street today.

Black tie may be out but the Budget red box stays

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

GORDON BROWN is to keep the tradition of carrying the Budget statement to the House of Commons in a battered red box, first used by William Gladstone in 1860.

Close aides to the Chancellor of the Exchequer denied reports that he was planning to exchange the scuffed scarlet leather box for a more modern and practical briefcase. The old brass-handled box is heavy and can contain only a few papers.

After Mr Brown's recent refusal to wear black tie at a speech to the City, there had been fears that he was intending to make further changes to other traditions surrounding his job. Aides said Mr Brown

had not once mentioned scrapping the red box. "I think the Chancellor is more interested in what is in his Budget than what his Budget speech is in," one said.

Mr Brown will be unable to continue one tradition, because he is unmarried he will not be able to stand outside 11 Downing Street with his wife as he holds the Budget box up for the media before heading to the Commons.

Mr Brown will today end weeks of speculation and announce the date of his first Budget in a written answer to the House of Commons. His aides refused to confirm or deny reports that it will be held on Wednesday July 2.

The date would break with the tradition that a Budget is always held on a Tuesday. However, it would allow Tony Blair time to return to Britain from attending ceremonies marking the handover of Hong Kong to China on July 1.

Many Budget traditions were created by Gladstone in the second half of the 19th century. Gladstone delivered a series of Budget speeches in the 1850s and 1860s and established the pivotal role of the financial statement as an annual event.

Aides confirmed that, unlike his predecessor Kenneth Clarke, Mr Brown would be unlikely to drink alcohol during his Budget.

Ulster

Continued from page 1
mer's marching season. Amid the backdrop of the sudden intensification in violence, the Prime Minister will hold his first meeting today with George Mitchell, the American senator who is chairman of the multi-party talks.

The two men will meet for 30 minutes in Downing Street before Mr Mitchell returns to Belfast for the resumption of the talks at Stormont tomorrow after a two-month break.

The negotiations were adjourned in March to allow Northern Ireland's political parties to fight the general and local elections.

Mr Mowlem, the Northern Ireland Secretary, condemned the murder of Constable Taylor. He joined the RUC in 1974, and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal. He had three children, including a nine-year-old son who has cerebral palsy.

Blair visits jobless

Continued from page 1
Downing Street sources insist nothing has been ruled out of the review.

Frank Field, the Social Security Minister and a key figure on the welfare-to-work Cabinet sub-committee masterminding the proposed changes, is pressing for single parents with children at school who reject suitable offers to lose benefit.

A Downing Street source said: "Long-term solutions will be part of the wider review." However, there are no immediate plans to "haul" single mothers in for interviews. "It is not a gun on the back of the head to say come in or get your benefit stopped. At this stage it is offering help to get the problem looked at."

Labour leftwingers will be anxious about the threat of compulsion. One who declined to be named said: "We

need more carrot and the prospect of less stick." But ministers are confident nine out of ten of the 800,000 jobless single mothers would go back to work if the opportunities were there.

Projects would be launched in conjunction with the business community to try to ease such a return, including schools opening later to provide American-style homework evenings. Lottery money could be made available.

Downing Street confirmed that the welfare reforms dominated the discussions between the Prime Minister and President Clinton last week.

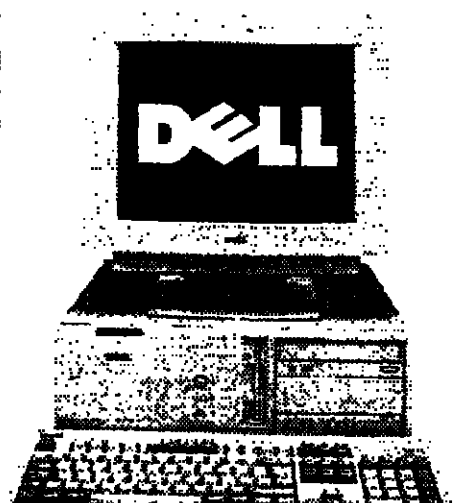
In his speech Mr Blair will make clear that everyone, not just the Government, has to face up to their responsibilities in his drive to "give them the will to win. Making Britain one nation was ... a job for everyone."

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Friends concerned for Referendum Party leader

Family flies to bedside of cancer-hit Goldsmith

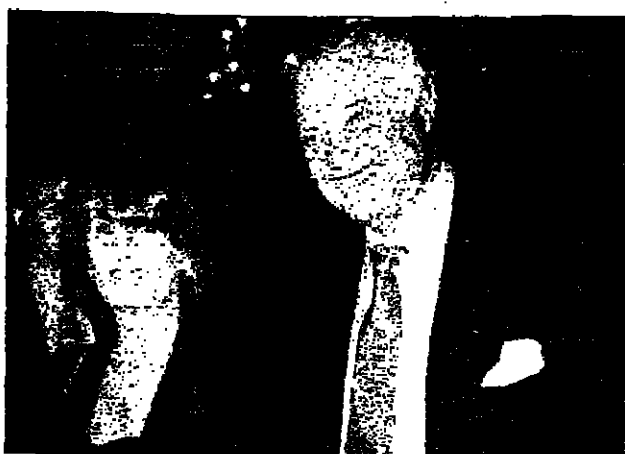
BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE family of Sir James Goldsmith, who is critically ill with cancer, yesterday gathered at his bedside at a hospital near Paris. His third wife, Annabel, has been joined there by his daughter, Jemima Khan, who flew in from Pakistan.

Sir James, 64, a billionaire businessman, first suffered pancreatic cancer in 1985 but its recurrence was kept secret during the six-week election campaign when he formed and led the Referendum Party. A handful of his closest friends knew and contingency plans were made in case his health failed during his taxing tour of the country. On one occasion, he collapsed in a helicopter after canvassing in Folkestone, having undergone chemotherapy. He was in acute pain for much of the time but refused to heed advice to slow down and fulfilled all his speaking engagements.

Friends were deeply concerned about his condition last night. One said: "I think it is very bad. He is a hero. He fought that campaign, having confided in only a handful of people, despite the most chronic pains. But the campaign took it out of him."

The friends believe the secret illness was a galvanising factor behind his decision to set up the Referen-



Sir James and wife, Annabel: the billionaire's health has been in question for a decade

dum Party. "He wanted desperately to put Europe at the heart of national debate. He achieved that during the election campaign. I think the cancer stiffened his resolve to give it his all."

The financier, who amassed his vast fortune as a corporate raider, having been responsible for some of the most audacious financial coups of the century, invested more than £20 million of his own personal fortune into the Referendum Party. The health of Sir James, an imposing figure at 6ft 4ins, has been in question since 1987 when he was diagnosed as having diabetes, retired in 1989. But he soon co-founded a political party in France. It started with

two per cent in the polls, ended up with 13 per cent and he won a seat in the European parliament.

He has had an unconventional love life, with a wife in London and mistress in Paris and eight children.

Cancer of the pancreas attacks men twice as often as women, and the average age at which it is first diagnosed is 55 (Dr Thomas Sutcliffe writes). In 80 per cent of cases the tumour initially involves the head of the gland, which lies in the upper abdomen. Nine out of ten cases of pancreatic cancer are inoperable by the time it is diagnosed as it spreads not only locally but to distant parts of the body, in particular the liver,

before it produces distinctive symptoms. Fewer than 2 per cent of patients with cancer of the pancreas survive for more than five years.

A patient with cancer of the pancreas usually notices an inexplicable loss of appetite and extreme tiredness following by upper abdominal pain which frequently radiates to the back. Many patients have noticed that the pain is relieved if they bend forwards, or if in bed lie with their knees raised.

Frequently the tumour obstructs the bile duct and results in jaundice and severe skin irritation. If, when the disease is first diagnosed, the patient's symptoms are mainly the result of obstruction of the bile duct surgery may be recommended to bypass the tumour, or a stent, a flexible tube, may be inserted into the duct. Complications which can produce a sudden deterioration in the patient's condition include haemorrhage or problems with blood-sugar levels.

Cancer of the pancreas is of unknown origin. At various times smoking, a high fat diet, diabetes, coffee and alcohol have all been implicated. The current medical thinking is that an excessive intake of alcohol may play a part in the origins of the tumour in a small number of cases but this is not the cause in the majority of cases.



Geoffrey Smith at the recording of *Gardeners' Question Time* yesterday

Radio 4 perennial celebrates 50 years

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE BBC's hardest perennial, *Gardeners' Question Time*, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary yesterday with a special recording in an amphitheatre in the National Forest, a vast woodland restoration scheme in the Midlands.

The programme, known affectionately by its fans as *GQT*, was first broadcast on April 9, 1947, from the Broadbalk Hotel, Ashton under Lyne, near Manchester. The original panel was made up of Bill Sowerbutts, who stayed for 30 years, Fred Loads, Tom Clark and Dr E.W. Sansome.

In 1994 the entire panel of experts defected from Radio 4 to commercial radio. The resident voices of the day, Dr Stefan Bucacki, Daphne Ledward, Fred Downham, Sue Phillips and Bridget Moody, moved to Classic FM to start the *Classic Gardening Forum*.

Three years on the Classic FM programme has a weekly audience of 450,000, well below the 1.3 million who tune in each week to *GQT*, which is now led by Geoffrey Smith, Pippa Greenwood, Bob Flowerdew, Anne Swithinkbank and the chairman Eric Robson. The recording will be broadcast this Sunday.

Forty not out, page 9

Critics line up to kick Channel 5 soccer into touch

BY ADRIAN LEE

CHANNEL 5's attempts to improve its audience share by spending more than £1 million to screen England's World Cup match in Poland appeared yesterday to have backfired, as critics lined up to attack its coverage.

Kenneth Wolstenholme, who commented on England's 1966 World Cup triumph and gave the nation the expression "They think it's all over — it is now", described the coverage as a disaster. He said: "If England had taken the game as frivolously as Channel 5, they would be out of the World Cup." It was, he added, "an amateur night presented by no-hopers".

Writing in the *News of the World*, he said: "All we got was a succession of spotty kids who were naive, to say the least."

Other pundits were equally astringent. David Emery, writing in the *Mail on Sunday*, said that Channel 5 stuffed its studio with B-list celebrities and "must improve" to keep faith with the fans. Kevin Mitchell, of *The Observer*, said the coverage was "bedevilled by youthful eagerness".

Millions of armchair fans were also disappointed. At least a third of the country remains without Channel 5 and in blackspots, including much of Kent, Hampshire, Sussex, central Wales and Cumbria. Eric Boyland, of Havant, Hampshire, was one of millions who had to wait for highlights later BBC1. "We can't get Channel 5 in this area at all. I follow football and it's the sort of game that I think

should be available." Fans in the Portsmouth area described reception as "not even faint".

Although the channel's coverage attracted a peak audience of five million viewers, by far the largest in its short history, it still fell far short of the audience ratings usually secured by the other terrestrial channels. Industry sources said that BBC1 could have expected an audience of about nine million had it secured the rights for the game.

David Elstein, chief executive of Channel 5, said the viewing figures for the World Cup qualifier exceeded expectations. "The decision to bid for this match was made last year and has been fully vindicated." It was a demonstration of the station's potential, he said.

Titanic battle, page 25
Matthew Bond, page 26



Wolstenholme said the coverage was a disaster

School for cricketing heroes may lose home

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE 119-year old Surrey cricket club where the England prodigies Ben and Adam Hoolioake learned to bat and bowl could lose its home.

The players of Send, which has won a reputation as a breeding ground for stars of the future, have been told that their lease is unlikely to be renewed when it expires at the end of this season. Protracted negotiations with the landowner, Mary Foulston, have ended in deadlock.

The Hoolioake brothers played for the club's Colts team and Adam, 26, is still a registered member who occasionally pads up for Send. He is remembered for hitting 172 runs off 14 overs at the ground. Ashley Giles, of Warwickshire, another England international, also cut his teeth at the club, which was founded in 1878. Send now faces merging with neighbouring Horsley to survive.

Keith Elliot, a first team member, said: "Every other landlord we've had has been proud to have a club like ours on their premises but Mrs Foulston doesn't appear to be interested."

Adam Hoolioake, who was selected yesterday for the England squad for the first Test against Australia, said: "I still keep in touch with all the boys down at Send. They're a great bunch of guys and hopefully they can stay at the ground."

The club hopes that the emergence of the Hoolioakes this season may persuade Mrs Foulston to reconsider. She refused to comment yesterday.

Cricket, pages 28-30

Office bully turns electronic mail into a silent menace

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE office bully has found a powerful new way to make his victims feel small — electronic mail. Sophisticated systems designed to ease communication are being used to hector and harass, a survey has shown.

The survey, carried out by the software company Novell, is believed to be the first to measure the uses to which electronic mail is put. Jacqui Forrest, Novell's marketing development manager, said: "We were amazed that 94 per cent of respondents said they wasted up to an hour a day reading and responding to irrelevant messages. We were also surprised that more than half said they regularly received abusive messages."

The survey, involving telephone interviews with 1,043 people and carried out by Ronin Research Services, examined only internal systems

and excluded e-mail sent via the Internet.

Although more than three quarters said electronic messages were very useful and relevant, more than 50 per cent had received "flame mails" — abusive or critical messages. Men are more often the victims, and the perpetrators, of flame-mail. Men are five times more likely than women to send them, and roughly twice as likely to receive them.

One in 70 of the respondents said they had left their job to avoid abuse. The more common response (31 per cent) was to respond with a similarly abusive reply.

The evidence is that relationships are damaged by the anonymity of abusive messages. Nearly a third of respondents had stopped communicating with a colleague or felt like doing so, while

nearly half said electronic messages had reduced face-to-face communication.

Middle managers were the worst offenders. "Managers never have time to talk you through a problem or explain what you should be doing differently," one respondent said.

Ms Forrest said the problem was that companies had introduced messaging systems without any agreed procedures and protocols. Often staff were told to take any complaints about mistreatment to their immediate manager. "But if the manager is the perpetrator, that is very difficult," she said.

Shaming, Blaming and Flaming: corporate miscommunication in the digital age. Firefly Communications (25/4 The Coda Centre, 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW; £40)

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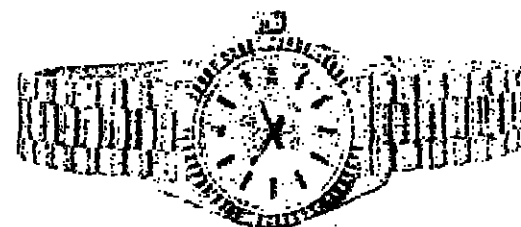
of it. It's a wonderful feeling."

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Viewers urged to vote for the BBC

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SECRET

BRITISH television has become an election issue in Ireland, where three candidates standing for parliament are calling for the restoration of cheap-rate viewing of BBC and ITV.

The candidates in Waterford, Tipperary and Donegal are attracting strong support in homes recently deprived of British television channels in a legal dispute over transmission rights. Since April about 100,000 households in rural Ireland have been cut off — enough to cause disruptive ripples in voting patterns on polling day next Friday.

Dermot Kirwan, 31, the Community TV candidate, is putting up a strong fight for one of the four seats in Waterford. He runs a "detector" company, which uses tall masts to pick up and bounce BBC and ITV signals to homes in Waterford. He is not licensed to do so and does not pay royalties or subscriptions to the British broadcasters. The result is cheap television, with subscribers paying about £5 a year for the service.

In April the High Court ruled in favour of licensed cable and satellite suppliers, which charge more than £100 a year. The court declared that Mr Kirwan and the unlicensed suppliers in 12 of the 26 counties were illegal and should be closed. Householders now receive only the three RTE channels.

"It is a very serious issue," Mr Kirwan said. "People have been used to getting good quality television and now they are left with RTE. It is as if they have given up the drink and are suffering withdrawal."

He is portraying himself as a community worker fighting on behalf of the people to "break the monopoly" of the licensed operators, the biggest of whom is Tony O'Reilly, chairman of Independent Newspapers. The Government tried to head off the election challenge by promising to issue licences for the defector companies, but it has failed to cool the tempers of Mr Kirwan and the other candidates, *Thomas Gillea in Donegal South West and Seamus Healy in Tipperary South.*



tenants starved to death and London was widely accused of doing too little too late by way of relief.

Ireland lost a quarter of its eight million population in six years. In addition to the mil-

years. In addition to the million who perished in Ireland, a million fled abroad to North America, Australia and New Zealand. Thousands died in horrific conditions reaching their destinations.

Mr Blair's statement stopped short of the formal apology demanded by some Irish politicians. However, his remarks were seen by observ-

remarks were seen by observers as a conciliatory gesture and another sign of the Prime Minister's determination to reach out to both traditions in

The weekend famine concert in Millstreet featured some of the greatest names in Irish music, including Van

Mary Robinson, the Irish President, received a standing ovation on Saturday night when she lit a candle in memory of the dead. In a moving speech the President said: "Commemorating the Great Famine is a moral act of remembering and of honouring by our generation."

In a pre-recorded interview shown on a giant video screen President Clinton described the famine as the "greatest disaster" in the history of Ireland.



BY NICHOLAS WATT

potato blight struck in 1845, was widely praised for the relief it sent to Ireland, the Professor of Irish Politics said. The Whig Government that won power during the famine failed to act as decisively.

why historians and politicians criticised Britain, because the Whig Government's record on the famine was not as strong.

"The Whigs believed that you could not just give food, and that people should work for it. They rigidly adhered to the logic of market forces."

phe of huge proportions, they are sharply divided over who was responsible.

Irish nationalist historians lay the blame squarely at the feet of the British Government for failing to respond adequately. In contrast, the likes of Professor Bew believe that the 'reasons' for the widespread starvation were more complex and that landlords and the middle classes were also at fault.

Famine, which was written in 1957 by the historians R.D. Edwards and T.D. Williams: "Human limitations and timidity dominate the story of the Great Famine. But of deliberately imposed evil in high positions of responsibility there is little evidence."

"The really great evil lay in the totality of that social order which made such a famine possible and which could tolerate to the extent it did the sufferings and hardships."

from the failure of the potato crop."

The book, which was funded by Eamon de Valera, the founding father of the Irish Republic, showed that early studies of the famine stopped short of blaming Britain alone. In recent years Britain has faced criticism from nationalist historians such as Cormac O Grada. Even his stance pales in comparison with that of some Irish-Americans who have accused Britain of genocide.

of whom is Tony O'Reilly, chairman of Independent Newspapers. The Government tried to head off the election challenge by promising to issue licences for the deflector companies, but it has failed to cool the tempers of Mr Kirwan and the other candidates, Thomas Gilder in Donegal South West and Seamus Healy in Tipperary South.

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Casebook of dreams may foretell disease and death

A psychotherapist tells Ian Murray of apparent diagnoses yielded by the sleeping mind

A PSYCHOTHERAPIST is analysing dreams in the hope that they may diagnose disease or predict birth and death. Robin Royston has collected more than 200 dreams linked to physical conditions since January, when he first asked people to send their experiences.

Dr Royston, a consultant in Kent and East Sussex, said: "I do not claim to have any explanation for what happens. All I am trying to do is describe the phenomenon, which is always the first stage of any scientific discovery. Once I have defined it, others can take it on and we will see where we go from there."

Dream diagnosis goes back to the ancient Greeks, but until now has not been backed by a sufficient number of case histories to make it plausible. Dr Royston has classified his into seven categories.

They include near-death experiences, predictions of illness and death, and identification of pain. Sweet dreams are those which foretell pregnancy, ways of healing and physiological processes. Women appear to be three times more likely to have such dreams, although this may be because men are less forthcoming.

These dreams are often very striking ones which haunt a person for years afterwards," Dr Royston said. "They do not know what they mean until something happens afterwards which they immediately relate to their dream."

An example was given by Cherry Davis, 51, a health visitor from Biddenham, Bedfordshire. She said that, although the dream was 15 years ago, it was so vivid that she could remember every detail.

"I was walking with my elder brother John near a river, which was fast-flowing. We were cut off from the river by wire-fencing with wooden



Robin Royston says doctors may be cynical but phenomenon must be studied

posts. We were in open country but on the other side of the river there was a dense wood. Suddenly a small child fell in and quickly began to float down the stream.

"My brother and I started to run, but we were cut off from the child by the fence. My brother shouted: 'Hurry, hurry, his lungs are filling up with water.' The fencing ended and we waded into the shallow water. 'You've got to help me,' my brother said. There the dream ended.

"The very next morning my brother rang to say that his daughter had just given birth to a baby boy. He said, 'He has a heart problem. His lungs are filling up with water. You've got to help.' It quite took my breath away because the words were almost identical to the ones in my dream. It was really scary."

Another of Dr Royston's favourite examples is of a man who dreamt that he was out riding when he was chased by two black panthers. They gained on him and one leapt on his back, digging its claws between his shoulder blades. Men in white coats came and chased off the panthers, and he felt a tremendous elation. As the dream ended, one of the panthers turned back and looked menacingly at him.

A month later the man's wife noticed a mole on his back at the spot where he had felt the panther's claws in his dream. It proved to be a malignant melanoma. "A black panther is a good image for a melanoma, which is usually black," Dr Royston said. "The fact that it looked back at him at the end could be a warning that it would recur if he was not careful."

Some cases that he has collected suggest that the dreamers would have died if they had not heeded their dreams. Maurice Packham, of Horsham, West Sussex, who served aboard an overcrow-

ed Dido-class cruiser in 1943, could find nowhere to sling his hammock when he first went on board. He eventually found an open area, laid out his bedding and went to sleep.

"Then I dreamt of a lions' cage in which the beasts were

snarling and clawing the air," he recalled. "The cage was not of stout iron bars but of chickenwire netting." The sailor woke up frightened and found that he had placed his hammock on an electric generator with a danger tag on it.

He says he would have been killed when the generator went on.

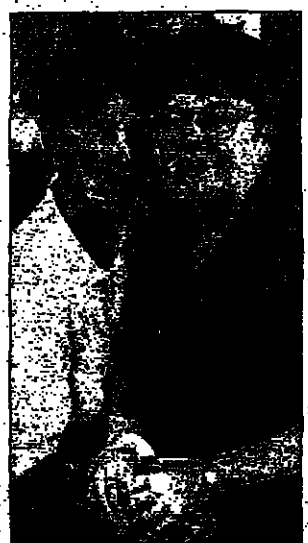
A woman described how she had persistent dreams of two hands trying to clutch her throat, but managed to jump up before they caught her. One night one of the hands, which she recognised as her dead mother's, did just touch her throat. She looked in the mirror and noticed a small swelling. It proved to be a thyroid problem.

Dr Royston said: "I know that doctors are likely to be cynical about these ideas, but the evidence is building up. It would be wrong if people thought dreams were a clear diagnosis. That would just spread anxiety every time someone had a nightmare. But if people can think positively about a connection between their dreams and their bodies, it might help."

Examples of such dreams may be sent to Dr Royston at Ticehurst House Hospital, Ticehurst, Wadhurst, East Sussex, TN5 7HU.



The Nightmare, by Henry Fuseli (1741-1825). Dr Royston believes that bad dreams may predict illness and death, or identify the causes of pain

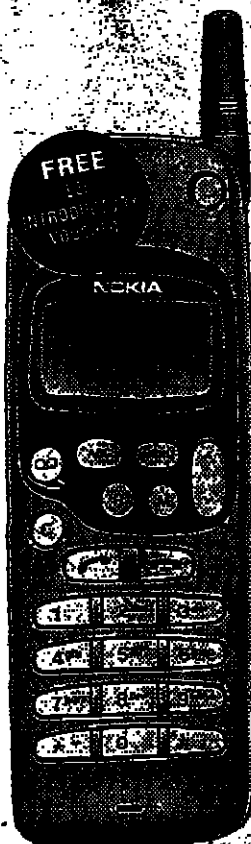


Davis and Scott Rendall, nephew she dreamt about



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Private school to launch £10m fund for poorer pupils

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S largest independent day school is building up a fund of £10 million to cover the fees of every pupil from a deprived background who passes its entrance examination.

The fund will put Manchester Grammar in a new category of "free access" independent schools that ensures no one is denied a place on financial grounds.

Dr Martin Stephen, High Master at the 1,500-pupil school, said the fund was the school's response to the phasing out of the Assisted Places Scheme. More than 250 boys from poor backgrounds receive state subsidies totalling £700,000 to attend the school under the scheme. This week, legislation will be discussed to use the £140 million allocated to the scheme to reduce class sizes for five, six and seven-year-olds.

Last month, *The Times* disclosed that the 24 members of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, which includes Bath, Portsmouth and South Hampstead High Schools, were planning a £70 million



Stephen said wealthy might sponsor others

scheme to rescue all 3,000 of their assisted places. Manchester Grammar aims to go a step further by guaranteeing places for all boys meeting its traditionally tough academic requirements by paying some or all of the annual £4,300 fees, based on a means test for parents.

The capital endowment will be combined with other ways of funding places. Wealthy

parents and old boys will be asked to sponsor a pupil for a minimum of a year. Dr Stephen said yesterday the parents of two current students had already offered to sponsor new pupils.

"Anyone who passes the entry criteria here should be able to take up a place," Dr Stephen said. "Basically, what we are asking people to do is to buy an education for a child."

He said the phasing out of assisted places denied children from the poorest areas of Manchester the chance of benefiting from the school's high academic standards. Manchester Grammar, founded in 1515 by the Bishop of Exeter to prepare able young men for Oxford or Cambridge, consistently tops examination league tables and last year all 200 fifth-formers gained five or more good passes at GCSE.

Dr Stephen said: "You cannot just shut your door on the most deprived parts of Manchester because nowadays it is likely to get in its car and come out and see you. And I detect a genuine fear of the creation of the underclass. You can approach that in two ways — punitively, or use education as the way out of it."

The school still has a long way to go to meet its £10 million target and will officially launch an appeal in January.

Few independent schools can claim they will cover the costs for any parent who needs it. One exception is Christ's Hospital, an 800-pupil boarding school in Horsham, West Sussex, where fees are related to families' ability to pay.

Dick Davison, deputy director of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "Manchester Grammar would be in a pretty unusual situation if it were able to say that no boy who passes the exam will be turned away. Not many schools would be able to command that kind of financial support."

are doing, their strengths and weaknesses, and obviously some in the teaching profession think the revealing of weaknesses is unacceptable," Mr Woodhead said on the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday.

He said the heads' vote was "a distraction in the sense that schools across the country are raising standards and working positively to the sort of agenda the Education Secretary has announced."

Mr Woodhead said he agreed to join the task force only once his freedom of speech had been guaranteed by the Education Secretary.

Woodhead will not be put off by criticism

THE embattled Chief Inspector of Schools yesterday said the virulence of head teachers would not prevent him highlighting poor classroom practice (David Charter writes).

Chris Woodhead, joint vice-chairman of the Government's new Standards Task Force, who was condemned by the National Association of Head Teachers last week, said he had won assurances from the Government that he would not be gagged. He said the vote by the association at its annual conference in Scarborough did not surprise him but left him saddened. "My job is to tell the public how schools

Bracken invasion threatens survival of heather moors

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

LARGE tracts of Britain's rarest landscapes are being taken over by one of the world's most poisonous and invasive plants: bracken.

The plant, which harbours disease-carrying ticks and can cause cancer, is invading upland pasture and Britain's remaining stretches of heather moor. The latter accounts for 70 per cent of the world supply of this habitat.

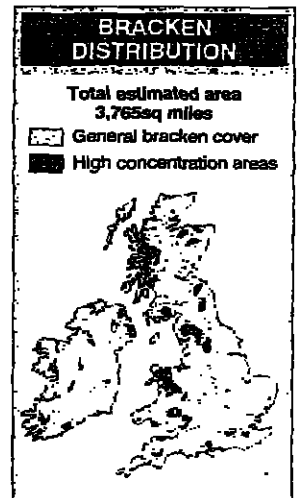
Scientists concerned about the threat have formed the Bracken Advisory Commission to campaign for more research funds. They estimate that bracken now covers 3,765 square miles, and is spreading in places by up to 3 per cent a year. It is particularly prevalent in southwest England, Wales, Cumbria, the Pennines, the North York Moors and the uplands of Scotland.

A study by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1989-1990 estimated that bracken cost livestock farmers about £8 million a year for sheep and cattle killed or made ill by poisoning, extra vets' bills and animals lost in dense thickets. The most serious risk to human health is probably infection with Lyme disease, which is carried by ticks for which bracken is a perfect habitat.

There were about 180 recorded cases of the disease when it was identified in Connecticut in 1975. Last year there were nearly 12,000 cases in the United States. In Britain there are 300 to 350

recorded cases a year, but it is thought up to three times as many may go unreported. The initial symptom is a circular red rash round the tick bite. The infection is easily cured if treated with antibiotics. If not, victims can develop tiredness, headaches, fever, arthritis and heart and central nervous system problems.

Professor Roy Brown, the commission's chairman and a specialist in sustainable land use at Bishop Burton College at Beverley in east Yorkshire, believes global warming will make the situation worse. "With climatic change, bracken could really romp away in northern parts of the country where you get long daylight hours in summer, the key period for growth," he said.



The spread of bracken is affecting ponies' grazing land in the New Forest

Farmers prepare to fight hedgerow protection plans

FARMERS are preparing for a battle with the Government over its plans to extend controls on the protection of hedgerows, replacing legislation passed just before the Tories lost power (Michael Hornsey writes).

The legislation, which came into force yesterday, requires farmers to notify local authorities of an intention to remove a hedge, allowing time for a protection order to be issued, with unlimited fines as the penalty. Michael

Meacher, the Environment Minister, has already announced a review: he favours extending the period of notification from six weeks, possibly to a year, and widening the category of hedges eligible for protection.

A paper is to be published soon, with a consultation period of up to eight weeks and regulations brought forward in the autumn or the new year. The move has dismayed farmers who, for several years, tried to dilute

the impact of the existing measures. Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the review would "not provide a balanced and measured analysis" of how the legislation was working.

But conservationists are delighted. Simon Lyster, director-general of The Wildlife Trusts, representing 47 local conservation groups, said: "The type of hedgerow eligible for protection needs to be more broadly defined.

Only about a fifth would qualify at present. Under a 'get-out clause', he said, farmers could plead financial loss and dig up protected hedges.

Hedges qualify for protection only if they are of great historical importance or of exceptional ecological value. Farmers say that they need reasonable freedom to remove hedges to expand the area available for crops and to maximise the efficient use of machinery.

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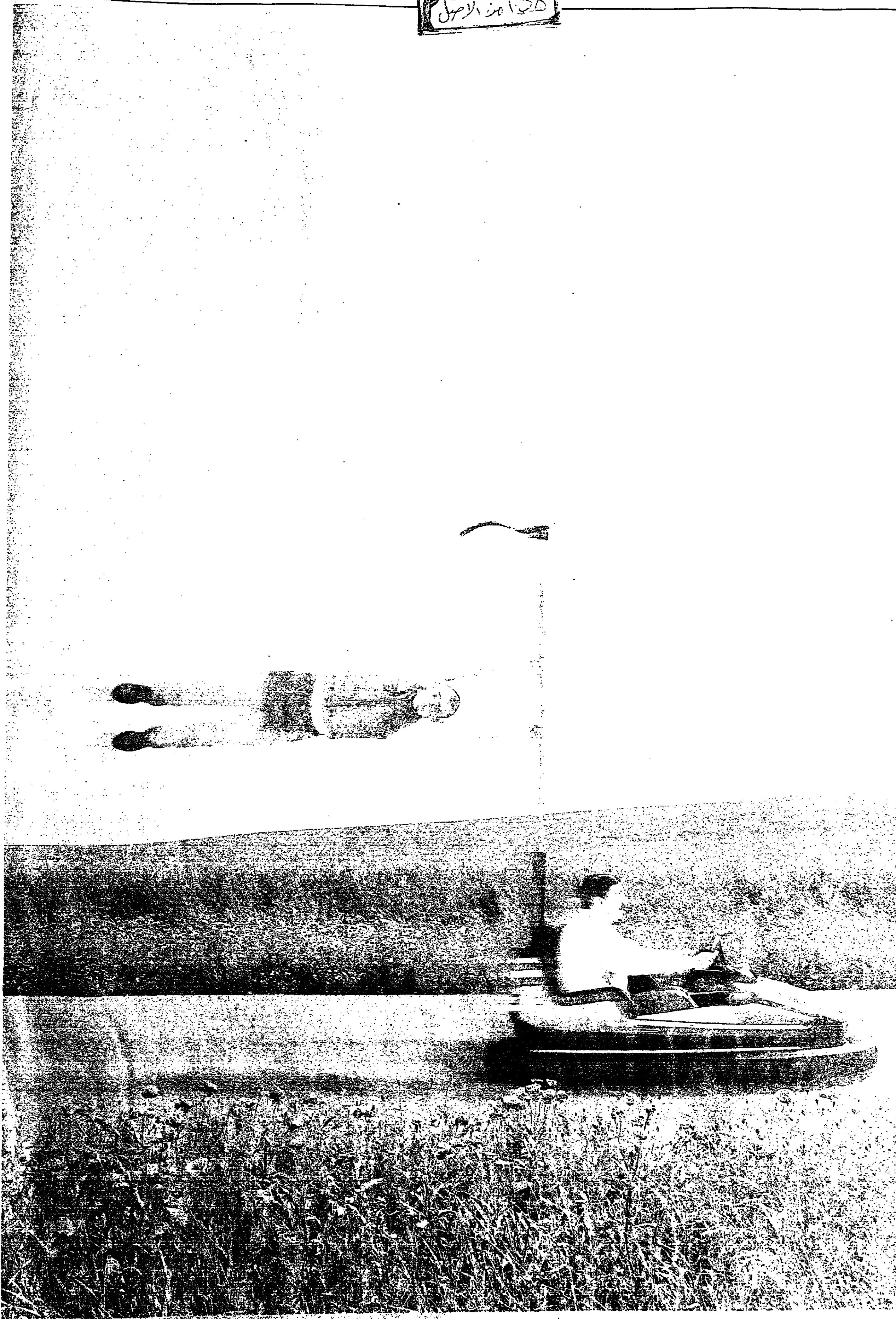
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NORWICH
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Aggers and Co on sticky wicket as they hit 40 not out



Alston: opened the first TMS with John Arlott

By PETER FOSTER

BBC Radio's *Test Match Special* may be 40 years not out, but it is still fighting for a regular place in the schedules.

The programme, one of the corporation's best-loved institutions, has been struggling for air time since losing its regular slot on Radio 3 almost four years ago. Until it was moved, TMS, as it is referred to by fans, prided itself on not missing a ball of Test cricket since its inception in 1957.

James Boyle, the controller of Radio 4 who is blamed by many fans for failing to support the programme, is to visit the commentary box at Edgbaston on Thursday, when England begin the task of

trying to reclaim the Ashes. Jonathan Agnew, the BBC's cricket correspondent and a former England bowler, yesterday called on the BBC to put the programme on a surer footing. "For the sake of our large and loyal troop of listeners, who have put up with a lot of changes in the last few years, it would be nice to see a long-term commitment to the programme from the BBC," he said.

Both Agnew and Peter Baxter, the producer, are looking forward to discussing the future of the programme with Mr Boyle, who refused to give a commitment to TMS when he was appointed controller of Radio 4.

Nevertheless, Thursday will be a special day for fans of TMS who

spend much of the summer baking cakes and writing cards for the commentary team. Fittingly, the 40th anniversary Test is being played at Edgbaston where, in May 1957, Rex Alston and John Arlott broadcast the first edition. England were playing the West Indies and

Crickets... pages 28-30

the match featured the record stand of 411 between Peter May and Colin Cowdrey.

The programme's informal but knowledgeable tone dated from the 1930s, when the BBC's original cricket commentator, Howard Marshall, made half-hour broadcasts on the old Home Service. Ball by ball

commentary began on the Third Programme.

Arlott, with his rich Hampshire burr, is still rated by Baxter as the best commentator to grace the TMS box. "He was a true genius, a poet who could put actions into words perfectly," Mr Baxter said. He described Clive Lloyd, the former West Indian captain, smashing an English bowler for six over square leg: "That was the stroke of a man knocking the thistle top off with a walking stick."

Brian Johnston popularised the show with his schoolboy humour and endless pranks and practical jokes. It was "Jonners" who devised the nicknames for his colleagues: Bill Frindal, the scorer, became the "bearded wonder"; Neville Oliver,

an Australian, "The Doctor" after his initials, which spelt the name of the fictional James Bond villain: Henry Blofeld "Bloers"; and later Agnew "Aggers".

Baxter remembers that working with Jonners was not always easy. After the infamous "leg over" incident, which involving Ian Botham vaulting the stumps to avoid hitting them, when Agnew and Johnston collapsed giggling, he was forced to take action. "I let them do one more summary together, but they corpsed again and I had to split them up."

Baxter is conscious of recent criticism by listeners that too much cricket is clogging the longwave frequency on Radio 4. "But the cakes and cards keep coming, so we can't be doing anything too wrong."



Marshall: set the tone with reports in 1930s

Parents to sue over vaccines that led to brain damage

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS of children who became brain-damaged after routine vaccinations are to sue drug companies in an effort to gain more compensation than the £30,000 maximum permitted.

In a series of test cases, they will try to prove that some batches were faulty and thus responsible for a much higher proportion of children being brain-damaged than those immunised with correctly manufactured vaccines.

A meeting of 100 parents agreed in London yesterday to adopt this tactic after being advised that they would be unable to obtain legal aid if they tried to argue that doctors had been negligent in vaccinating the children or that the routine immunisation programme was inherently dangerous. "We were told that because of the difficulty in establishing causation of brain damage there was no chance of getting legal aid," said Rosemary Fox, the associ-

ation's secretary. "We are therefore going to try to prove that there was something wrong with the batches of vaccine used on our children." Mrs Fox's daughter, Helen, has not developed mentally since being given a polio vaccine 35 years ago. "Polio has almost been eliminated from the world because of the vaccination programme but my daughter was destroyed by it," she said.

"The world has benefited but the tiny number of people who have suffered to make it a safer place have been forgotten."

The association hopes to be able to use as precedent a case in Ireland in 1993, when the High Court in Dublin ordered the Wellcome Foundation to pay £2.75 million damages to a 24-year-old man who had been brain-damaged after a whooping cough vaccination when he was two. After a 20-year legal battle, the court ruled that the brain damage

occurred because the company had produced an excessively toxic vaccine.

The campaign for compensation began in 1974 when the Government agreed to give victims a maximum one-off compensation award of £10,000. This was increased to £30,000 in 1979. Around 850 parents have received compensation, with an average of two or three new cases acknowledged each year.

"We have been collecting statistical evidence about batches which we hope will prove that some were more dangerous than others," Mrs Fox said after yesterday's meeting.

"All the cases will involve children who are now in their twenties and thirties but we hope they will set a precedent which other parents will be able to use," she added.

The association's QC, Daniel Brennan, is president of the Personal Injury Bar Association. Eighteen months ago he obtained £1.25 million damages against a health authority for a 33-year-old man who had been brain-damaged by his treatment in the hospital a month after his birth.

Jacob Rabinowitz, chairman of the association's solicitors' committee, said: "Compensation is ridiculously low. These unfortunate children are the casualties of the war against disease. Society should pay for those casualties."

"We have enough good evidence to get the cases off the ground and if we can persuade the court that there are significant reactions to a batch of vaccine then that should clear the way for others. The system of vaccinations has not changed down the years so the old cases are perfectly relevant."

Clinic gave girl, 10, condoms and Pill

A HEALTH trust is to investigate claims that a 10-year-old girl was issued with condoms and a three-month supply of birth control pills.

The girl's mother said she told her daughter to give a false name and pose as a 13-year-old to show how easily children could obtain contraceptives on the health service. Karen Eslick, 31, a divorced mother of three, said no checks were made by the family planning clinic about her daughter's age. She said she and other

concerned mothers sent in two other girls, aged 12 and 13, who asked for the Pill.

"It's disgraceful and shows these places are encouraging under-age sex," she said. "I have no regrets about sending my little girl to the clinic. It was her choice."

She said a woman doctor at the Amelia Nutt clinic in Bristol had supplied her daughter with contraceptives. The United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust said any complaint by Mrs Eslick would be looked into.



Harry Ward with the medal that had awaited him on his mother's sideboard

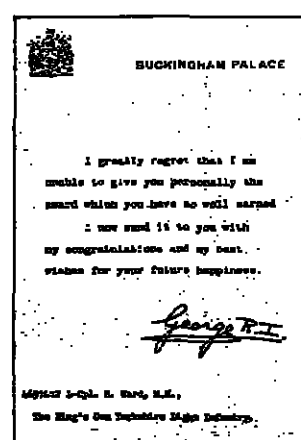
Fifty years on, war hero receives a royal salute

A VETERAN of the Second World War is to be presented with his bravery medal by the Queen Mother 53 years after he won it for rescuing two injured soldiers from the front line.

Harry Ward was due to be presented with the Military Medal in 1944 by George VI, but because of the King's failing health it was posted to Mr Ward's parents a few days after he returned home. Now it will be pinned to the 77-year-old's chest at a ceremony at Claridge's in London on June 12.

In the same month in 1944, Lance Corporal Ward's regiment, The 1/4 Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, fought the Germans for control of the French village of Cristot. The regiment was settled into its rest area when another regiment ran into difficulties just north of the village.

Mr Ward, of Pontefract, west Yorkshire, who was a stretcher bearer, said: "They



George VI's apology to Mr Ward in 1944

were under heavy machine-gun fire and there were many casualties. We saw two wounded men lying about 200 yards away. I left my party behind a hedge and crawled on my stomach to where the first man lay. I can remember that he was an officer."

"I could see he was too badly injured to be left there, so I bound his wrists together with some string, placed his arms around my neck and dragged him under me to safety. It worked so well that I went back and used the same procedure with the other injured man."

In November 1944, Corporal Ward was told by his commanding officer that he was to be awarded the Military Medal, second only to the Victoria Cross. But when the 24-year-old hero arrived home he found his medal on his mother's sideboard with a note of apology from Buckingham Palace.

He said: "I was very disappointed. Although I hadn't expected the medal as I only did my duty, I have to confess I was looking forward to going to the Palace and it was my dream to meet the King. "But now it looks like my dream is coming true. It's going to be the best day of my life."

Gunpowder Plot man's home to go on public view

By MARK HENDERSON

AN ESTATE that was owned by the chief instigator of the Gunpowder Plot is to open to the public this summer.

Chastleton House and Park, near Stow-on-the-Wold, in Gloucestershire, will open its doors on September 10, after restoration by the National Trust which took six years.

The estate was owned by Robert Catesby until 1602, when he was forced to sell it to pay a fine incurred for joining the Earl of Essex's rebellion against Elizabeth I.

A Roman Catholic, Catesby was fined and imprisoned for recusancy, and was involved in several conspiracies against Elizabeth and James I. In 1604 he began to assemble the band of Catholic zealots who planned to blow up Parliament on November 5, 1605. After the plot was uncovered, Catesby was shot while resisting arrest in Holbeche House, Staffordshire.

Between 1605 and 1612, Walter Jones, who had bought the Chastleton estate from Catesby, built the Jacobean mansion which stands today. Arthur Jones fought for the Cavaliers in the Civil War, and hid from Roundhead troops in a secret room.

The Jones family continued

to live in the house until 1991, when it was sold to the National Heritage Memorial Fund for £1 million and given to the National Trust.

Almost all the furniture and wall hangings featured in a 1612 inventory of the house are still on show, including two sets of 16th-century Flemish tapestries, and curtains. The original glass in the windows is among the finest examples of 17th-century glazing in this country, and some of the window lead is named and dated.

The plaster ceilings of the Great Chamber and the Long Gallery are thought to have been the work of Jacobean masters who also decorated Oxford colleges. A collection of 2,700 books and about 200 pamphlets has been restored, and a collection of Jones family portraits. Lisa Ramshaw, of the Thames and Chiltern area National Trust said that Chastleton House was a remarkable example of a 17th-century home as it was lived in.

Those wishing to visit the house will have to book tickets in advance, for a specific time, as numbers have to be limited to protect the 17th-century floors and staircases. Tickets go on sale from August 5.

Risks of life-saving therapies are usually worth taking

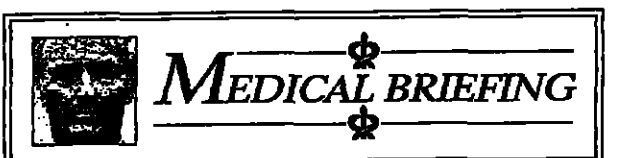
THE BBC programme *Panorama* this evening investigates the side effects of radiotherapy and quotes instances in which patients have suffered severe disability from their treatment. The programme is likely to cause some irritation in medical circles and considerable alarm, most of it unnecessary, in those patients who are about to undergo this often life-saving, and even more frequently life-prolonging therapy.

There is no effective treatment whether by surgery, radiation, or drugs which will not sometimes cause greater damage than is usual. All medicine is a matter of

assessing a risk-benefit analysis in which the expected advantages of any therapy have to be weighed against its likely consequences.

The doctor's role in any particular case is to explain the points for and against the treatment to their patients, and likely cost of the disease if it is left untreated. The doctor's role is also to protect the patient from the over-enthusiasm some colleagues might have for a particular new line in treatment, or conversely an over-conservative approach taken by others who are liable to reject medical advances.

The patient's views are always paramount and in a consultation the doctor's task



Dr Thomas Stuttard

can now be likened to that of a judge in his summing up for the patient, who is the one person jury.

Unfortunately, mistakes are occasionally made and the wrong dosage is delivered in the radiotherapy department. In other cases too heavy a dose of a drug, or the wrong drug, is prescribed in the wards,

surgery or out-patients — or a surgeon when removing a diseased part of the body cuts into or destroys some healthy tissue — but this doesn't undermine the reasons for using this form of treatment in the first place.

The outcry a few years ago by campaigning organisations against radiotherapy in the

treatment of breast cancer resulted in several major hospitals withdrawing this form of treatment. Later, less publicised but detailed and extensive critical research showed that radiotherapy saved the lives of many people with breast cancer. The advantages of radiotherapy outweighed its disadvantages. The initial campaign, however well-intentioned, must have cost lives, which may not have been entirely wasted as the procedures now being used have, as a result, been refined so that side-effects are less frequent.

The difficulty in using radiotherapy is to target cancerous cells with such precision that

nearby healthy tissue is not either destroyed or so affected that in old age it fails before the rest of the body.

Radiotherapy will cure many tumours by itself, in other cases it will, when used in conjunction with other treatments, improve the likelihood of survival. When assessing its advantages, and the *Panorama* programme, viewers should remember that those who have had to suffer from disease often have an intense anger, similar to that experienced during grief. This approach does not always allow campaigners to adopt the dispassionate stance needed to help others who may develop similar troubles later.

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Albright send war criminals for trial

Albright turns on Balkan leaders

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

THE American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, concluded yesterday a bruising tour of the former Yugoslavia during which she confronted Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic and Croatia's Franjo Tudjman over their miserable records in honouring the Dayton peace accord.

With a year left before American troops are due to pull out from Bosnia, the peace process is a shambles. Mrs Albright bloodied the noses of both Presidents, warning Mr Milosevic that if he continues to stonewall on sending war criminals for trial at The Hague, Serbia's isolation will deepen.

Earlier in Zagreb she left President Tudjman with an uncompromising message about worsening relations with Washington. She cited the tendency of Croatian police to ignore crimes against Serbs attempting to resettle in their "cleansed" homeland of Krajina.

In Brcko in Republika Srpska, the Serb-held Bosnian territory that is implacably opposed to the peace process, she said: "Make no mistake, a price will be paid for the atrocities committed here."

Gambler Chirac deals himself a losing hand

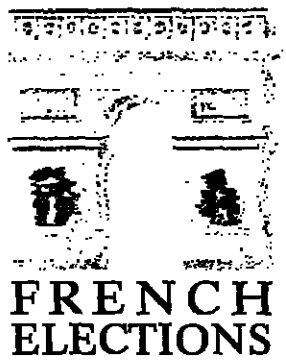
FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Chirac's election gamble was a simple one: dissolve parliament, win a renewed if reduced majority for the centre-right coalition, confirm arch-technocrat Alain Juppé as Prime Minister to push through European economic and monetary union, sit back and enjoy the remaining five years of the presidency and then get re-elected for seven more years in 2002.

Simple, seductive and disastrous. Even before last night's vote, it was clear that the French President had badly misjudged his gambit and would emerge from the parliamentary elections a substantially weakened figure.

The moment when M Chirac's plans went wrong can be identified precisely: the first-round poll results that came through on Sunday, May 25, flatly contradicted the opinion pollsters by showing that voters had strongly rejected the Government's austere recipe for joining the single European currency. From that instant, the President and his allies were on the skids.

M Chirac's painful dilemma was aptly symbolised at the final of the French rugby championships on Saturday night. Beside the President sat



Philippe Séguin, the parliamentary Speaker and the man brought in to replace the ousted M Juppé as Prime Minister-apparent and the last hope of the Centre-Right.

A vigorous (although recently more reticent) opponent of the Maastricht treaty, the socially caring M Séguin, who now favours a kinder, softer euro taking second place to job creation, represents much that M Chirac despises.

The two dislike each other profoundly. But just feet away watching the rugby match in the presidential stand sat Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader and, from M Chirac's point of view, the greater of two evils.

Knowing that within 24 hours he would probably be facing the unpleasant prospect of sharing power with one or the other, it was no wonder

that the President's mind did not seem to be on the unfolding match, but on the game he had already lost. The situation, however, was entirely of his own making.

Having repeatedly insisted that his powers to dissolve parliament would be used only in the event of a national emergency, the President then employed them for reasons that were purely cynical and largely personal — knowing that waiting until the parliament's full term was up next March would be to invite all but certain electoral calamity.

The President and M Juppé never admitted openly that their ruse was to win parliamentary leverage for another round of cost-cutting in the run-up to EMU, but the electorate saw through them — and delivered a stinging riposte. Until then it had been a lacklustre campaign. But what had appeared to be voter indifference was, in retrospect, a seething silence.

The ousting of M Juppé in the wake of the first-round debacle smacked of desperation and disloyalty. Long after the Prime Minister announced that he would step down he continued to wander the campaign trail, an unimpressed but ever-visible martyr and proof of M Chirac's greatest political error.



President Chirac enters his car after voting at Sarraz, central France, in the second round of the country's parliamentary elections yesterday. Some 39 million voters were due to choose 577 National Assembly deputies

The last-minute alliance of M Séguin and Alain Madelin was hailed as a "dream team" but while he gave them his veiled benediction, from M Chirac's standpoint the combination of a man he had passed over for the premiership and one sacked for ardent free-marketting had all the hallmarks of a nightmare.

Almost every aspect of M Chirac's election calculation

has backfired: he wanted a coherent, tighter centre-right ruling group, but has emerged with a coalition more bitterly fractious and riven by ideological differences.

He wanted to see M Juppé continue as Prime Minister; instead, he has M Juppé's blood on his hands and, in his place as the figurehead of the Centre-Right, M Séguin, the standard-bearer of Euroscop-

ticism and a certain future contender for the presidency.

He had hoped to boost his personal standing but now appears to be fragile, compromised and facing an uncertain and frustrating future.

Above all, he intended the elections to confirm France's drive to a single currency, to provide the final burst of energy that would enable him to make good on the commit-

ment to which he has sacrificed all others.

Instead his attempt to secure the single currency has radically, perhaps fatally, undermined it.

□ **Marseille:** Police defused an explosive device at a polling station in a school here. The 3.3lb "bomb" was made of six sticks of dynamite. (AFP)

Peter Riddell, page 20

Rome's Albania policy plunged into crisis

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S Albanian policy was in disarray yesterday following the abrupt resignation of its newly nominated Ambassador to Tirana and controversy over the appointment of an Italian "Commissioner Extraordinary" to "oversee the reconstruction of Albania", a move compared by some commentators to "Mussolini-style colonialism".

Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday travelled to Albania to hold crisis talks with both

President Berisha and Bashkim Fino, who heads a cross-party "coalition of national unity".

Allegations by the Albanian Socialists that Paolo Foresti, the Italian Ambassador to Tirana, was openly pro-Berisha came to a head last week when an Albanian newspaper published the alleged transcript of a telephone conversation between Signor Foresti and Tritan Shehu, chairman of the Democratic Party, in which the Italian envoy appeared to offer his help in ensuring a Democratic Party election victory. At the weekend Signor Foresti, who claimed the trans-

script was fabricated, was "transferred to another post", and Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, named his successor as Manfredi Incisa di Camerana. But Signor Incisa, dismayed Signor Dini by telling *La Repubblica* that Signor Foresti had "always had a political viewpoint" and that the Foreign Ministry under Signor Dini was "going through a period of weakness". Yesterday Signor Incisa said his remarks had been "off the record", but offered to step down. His offer was accepted.

General Franco Angioni, 63, appointed as "Commissioner Extraordi-

nary" in Albania, is a popular ex-paratrooper who led Italian troops in Lebanon. He is to "co-ordinate Italian initiatives in the reconstruction of Albania", but commentators said this was uncomfortably reminiscent of Italy's economic penetration of Albania in the 1920s and its subsequent wartime occupation of the country.

La Stampa said the appointment highlighted the confusion over the Italian mandate, and it remained unclear whether Italian troops had entered the country to protect aid convoys, or reinforce Italian control of the country's economy.

Ferrari marks 50th year with Rome rally

Rome: Italy yesterday celebrated a name which more than any other symbolises its unashamed love affair with speed, noise and curves in the right places, as 250 Ferraris from 1947 to the present day roared throatily through Rome in a rally to mark the company's fiftieth anniversary (Richard Owen writes).

For once nobody complained about traffic congestion or pollution: the very

word Ferrari, and the symbol of the prancing horse on its bonnet, bring tears to the eyes of Italians.

The lovingly polished cars, from the original Ferrari 125S to the latest Formula One monsters and the white F375 given to Ingrid Bergman by Roberto Rossellini, growled their way from the Olympic Stadium past St Peter's and through the centre to the Baths of Caracalla.



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Kohl calls the shots in battle of the bullion

The Titanic exhibition in Hamburg, housed in a grand dockside warehouse, is worth a visit not only because of its special effects that spin the illusion of being trapped under water. The doomed liner naturally lends itself to political metaphor. Like the *Titanic*, the euro — one tries to avoid saying the *SS Euro* — was regarded as unsinkable. Hence the shortage of lifeboats. The ship had three classes of passenger, all finely toggled out, chattering gaily until the collision.

Over the past week German cartoonists have stumbled on the parallels. The captain who blew his brains out is depicted as Helmut Kohl or Theo Waigel. The role of the iceberg is played by the Bundesbank (Buba). Yet despite the *Schadenfreude* in Britain, and the twitchiness of the markets, the euro is not yet sunk and the captain may stay on the bridge for a while. Icebergs lurk 80 per cent below the surface.

As long as the political classes of France and Germany want the euro, it will happen. That will be sapped by events opening the way for postponement. But the saga of the Rhine or, more properly, the Maingold will not be as decisive as is assumed by the markets or by Germany's anxious neighbours.

The plan to revalue the gold was a foolish move because of its hopeless timing, announced in the middle of a parliamentary debate about the European economic and monetary union. The hint of panic, of rabbits being tugged out of hats, demonstrated that Herr Waigel, the Finance Minister, has lost his political touch. But considered answers to the right questions suggest that, while the euro may have been driven off course, it has not been holed. Does the Maingold belong to the Buba? No. It belongs to the nation, was due to be revalued anyway and can be used to the benefit of central and regional government finances. Revaluation was first suggested by the Bundesbank, although not as a means of bailing out the budget.

Can Buba alter the political calculus? No. The Bundesbank law can and will be changed to allow the gold revaluation to take place. Some younger Christian Democrats are threatening a backbench revolt when the draft comes to parliament. This threat will fizzle out.

Will the Buba's doubts about gold influence popular opinion about the euro? Unlikely. Even when it is right the bank is not loved by

INSIDE

Roger Boyes

GERMANY

Germans. It opposed a 1:1 exchange rate for East German marks and was overruled by the Government. Despite the cost, the popular verdict was that the Chancellor won the day. Anyway, the people are not being consulted on the euro. They can deliver their verdict on the Chancellor in October 1998, after the euro is a done deal.

Would Bonn be seriously hurt by a negative euro assessment by the Buba? Perhaps. A compromise on gold is being worked out. The power brokers met in the chancellery last night. On Thursday Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, addresses the parliamentary financial committee. Whatever the terms — Herr Waigel may choose to profit from the gold revaluation next year, rather than in 1997, to limit damage to the euro — they will show that Bonn, not Frankfurt, is calling the shots.

Behind Herr Kohl there is a broad cross-party consensus for the euro. Behind Herr Tietmeyer there is an institution only a few years from self-destruction.

There is no question of Herr Tietmeyer being on the verge of resignation — more market mischief. If anyone is on the brink it is Herr Waigel, who after a record eight years in office has become an electoral liability for his Bavarian Christian Social Union. Herr Tietmeyer is not a Eurosceptic out to wreck the euro and save his back.

But he will almost certainly be the last Buba chief in history. As such he is both weak — almost a lame duck on many political issues — and influential. His Buba will put up with Herr Waigel's goldmanship on one condition: that the entry gate for euro is high and rimmed with barbed wire. The gold crisis has not wrecked the euro; rather it has increased the pressure for a small, intimate mark zone as the initial nucleus of the new currency.

France may mean about the coming exclusion of Club Med states and tears may flow into the Tiber, but that will be the true price of playing with Maingold.

Budget crisis splits Bonn coalition

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Government, racked by the effort to plug its leaking budget and meet European economic and monetary union targets, showed signs of serious strain last night as Bonn's power brokers met in Helmut Kohl's office to find a way out of the financial crisis.

The Chancellor's coalition of Christian Democrats, the Bavarian Christian Social Union and the Free Democrats has to find a way of patching up the budget — hit by a huge shortfall in tax revenues — by the end of this month. The revaluation of the Bundesbank gold reserves, deeply controversial, cannot be used for this purpose. So the Government is stuck with three unpalatable options: to raise taxes, cut back the welfare state even further, or borrow more money.

The prospect of increasing petrol and value-added tax has prompted the Free Democrats to threaten to desert the Kohl Government. "The CDU will have to look for another coalition partner for a decision like this," Paul Friedhoff, Free Democrat economic spokesman, said yesterday. Michael Glos, head of the Bavarian CSU parliamentary party, sneered: "I have stopped believing in Free Democratic suicide notes. It is like a carp threatening to throw itself on land."

That exchange captured something of the sour atmosphere within the Government as politicians

scramble for a solution. But the Free Democratic readiness to torpedo the Kohl Government should not be underestimated: if they are to establish their separate credentials before an election, then a principled stand against tax increases would be to their benefit.

Further welfare cuts would be opposed by the Social Democrats, who can hold up most financial initiatives because of their control

I have stopped believing in Free Democratic suicide notes. It is like a carp threatening to throw itself on land

of the upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat. New borrowing would push Germany well outside the Maastricht criteria on public finances. A possible shortcut out of the crisis — selling shares in Deutsche Telekom — has been blocked by the Telekom chief.

The confusion in the German political class has been compounded by new pressure to postpone the European economic and monetary union. A report in *Der Spiegel* to be published today suggested that

even Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, favours postponement of the euro.

"Wouldn't it be a possibility, together with France, to agree to a delay in the start of the euro?" Herr Tietmeyer was quoted as saying. The Bank took the unusual step of issuing a denial. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, chipped in with a rebuttal of other rumours that France and Germany were preparing an EMU delay strategy. "It does not make sense to discuss a delay in currency union," said Herr Waigel, who emphasised that postponement would have to be agreed by the European Union's Council of Ministers.

Until recently Herr Kohl has been able to assume that he has broad cross-party support for the euro. Yet an opinion survey of Social Democrats released by *Der Spiegel* showed yesterday that 78 per cent of party members favour a postponement of the euro.

Given the logjam in legislation and the bewilderment in Bonn, there was some sympathy in Germany yesterday for those calling for early new elections. "The economic and finance policies of the Kohl Government have failed. The coalition is so split it is not capable of acting. It would be good if it cleared the path for fresh elections," Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrat Party leader, said.



Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, who denied yesterday that Bonn and Paris were preparing an EMU delay strategy

NatWest

News Release

2 June 1997

GREATER CHOICE FOR SAVERS

NatWest today launched two new options for savers — Reward Reserve and Millennium Bond, available to both existing and non-NatWest customers.

Reward Reserve is a new instant access savings account paying interest up to 4.20% gross a year*. Attractive interest rates are available for an initial deposit of £2,000, with higher rates for deposits over £10,000. Uniquely this product offers a basic rate of interest plus the opportunity to earn quarterly and annual rewards.

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David Lane, Head of Product Marketing said: "Reward Reserve is an instant access savings account with a difference. We expect strong interest not just from our own customers, but also from those who don't save with us at the moment. Our Millennium Bond offers customers the chance to save over £2,000 for the year 2000 — perhaps to spend on the celebration of a lifetime.

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*The gross rate includes quarterly interest rewards of 1% gross per annum and an annual interest reward of 0.25% gross per annum. Quarterly rewards are payable providing the account does not fall below £2,000 and no more than one withdrawal is made in any quarter. Annual rewards are payable providing no more than three withdrawals are made in any year. Credit interest and quarterly reward interest is paid quarterly and annual reward interest is paid annually. All rates are subject to variation.

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Guerrillas from Sierra Leone bush fall out with army allies to oppose peace deal

Britain's envoy in Freetown urges rebels to end coup

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PETER PENFOLD, the phlegmatic British High Commissioner in Freetown, Sierra Leone, was among a group of diplomats who yesterday were playing key roles in trying to return the West African state to civilian rule after last Sunday's military coup by Sandhurst-trained Major Johnny Paul Koromah.

Discussions between Mr Penfold and Major Koromah had already taken place at the High Commission in Freetown to ensure the safe evacuation of hundreds of Britons from the country.

Yesterday Mr Penfold and other foreign diplomats were pushing hard to persuade Major Koromah to hand the country back to civilian administration. The rebel leader was also warned by the commanders of the West African peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone, consisting of troops from Nigeria, Ghana and Guinea, that he and his soldiers would be forcibly removed if they did not stand down.

A Sierra Leonean politician who participated in the talks said a formal announcement was expected after a meeting at Mr Penfold's residence, to be attended by Major Koromah, which could lead to the return of Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, the deposed President. He escaped to Guinea after the coup.

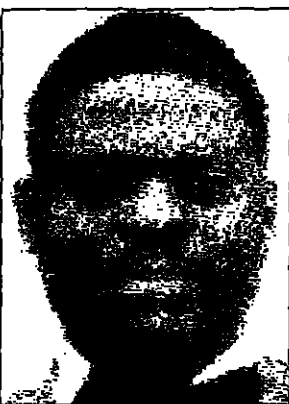
However, diplomats gave a warning that a settlement was not being supported by another rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which has been fighting a bush war since 1991 and had joined Major Koromah, remains opposed to any deal. RUF leaders have not been part of the talks.

The settlement under discussion would involve the

Nigerian-led peacekeeping force being deployed to secure key points and keeping order in the capital.

However, the presence of 5,000 RUF rebels in Freetown and their continued resistance to a deal has already led to serious rifts between its commanders and the coup leaders. Sierra Leonean sources said two people had been killed in gunfights between RUF rebels and soldiers at Major Koromah's headquarters on a Freetown beachfront.

The proposed settlement is based on what the international community had been demanding since the junior officers deposed President



COUP leader Major Johnny Paul Koromah was trained at Sandhurst in 1988-89. He was attached to 18 Platoon Arnhem Company. One Sandhurst contemporary said yesterday: "I remember he used to predict that one day he would play a significant role in his country." He once told him how he had escaped an attempt on his life by army officers before coming to Sandhurst. "He got wind of it and shot his platoon commander who was from a rival tribe," he said.

Kabbah a week ago, including the return of the President and the handover of power by the coup leaders.

One diplomatic source said the Cabinet would also be reshuffled to reflect some of the grievances of the coup leaders, who had accused the President of failing to consolidate a peace deal with the RUF and of causing tension between ethnic groups.

As if to underline that a settlement was not a foregone conclusion, Major Koromah last night announced the setting up of an Armed Forces Revolutionary Council with himself as chairman and Foday Sankoh, the RUF leader, as vice-chairman.

Diplomats negotiating with the coup leader played down the announcement carried on state radio, saying they still expected a deal to be signed.

The 20-member council consisted of three other members of the RUF, three brigadiers, four colonels and several civilians, including the attorney-general. The statement said a Cabinet would be announced later.

Yesterday Mr Penfold, who has four staff with him at the High Commission where they have taken temporary refuge since the coup, described Freetown as "relatively quiet but very tense".

He said he and his staff, including Colin Glass, 42, his deputy, Dai Harris, 37, the consular management officer, and Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Gale, the defence attaché normally based in Nigeria, had completed the safe withdrawal of about 1,000 British passport holders and 400 other Commonwealth and European citizens. They left by commercial aircraft and on American and French vessels. Speaking by telephone, Mr



A US Marine carrying a child through Freetown yesterday as the operation continued to evacuate foreigners wishing to leave the capital of Sierra Leone in the aftermath of last week's coup by junior military officers

Penfold said: "There is only a hard core of Britons left who want to stay. There are a lot of troops around and there is a great deal of apprehension about what is going to happen. But we're in good heart."

Mr Penfold and his staff have been living in the office and sleeping on the floor because of the risks of leaving the large British compound. They had enough food, he said.

Yesterday heavily armed

rebel soldiers maintained their reign of terror over the capital, manning roadblocks and patrolling the streets.

Helicopters from US warships which airlifted about 900 foreigners on Friday returned to pick up more early yesterday. Britain chartered a DC10 to fly 200 evacuated Britons from the Guinean capital, Conakry, to Stansted airport.

One group of Europeans arrived in Italy yesterday from

Guinea. Joe Dogherty from Bath said: "Some of the rebels shot at the door of my room to try and get in. Others had their houses looted. We had problems getting food, all the shops were closed or burned. There were armed men in the streets and we all sought refuge where we could."

Britain is one of the few European and Commonwealth countries to be diplomatically represented in Sierra Leone and retains a

strong influence in the country.

Mr Penfold's previous diplomatic post was Governor of the British Virgin Islands. Conscious of the historical importance of the event and wishing to show solidarity with a fellow Governor, he booked three years ago to be in Hong Kong on June 30 for the handover to China.

He said: "Now I'm stuck in Freetown and I don't know whether I'm going to make it."

Clinton will not make apology in Jones case

By TOM RHODES

PRESIDENT Clinton will not apologise in the sexual harassment suit brought by Paula Jones and is prepared to defend himself in court if necessary, his personal lawyer said yesterday.

Bob Bennett said that Mr Clinton categorically denied the claim by Mrs Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, that he had made a sexual advance to her in a hotel room at Little Rock in 1991. "There will be no apology and no admission of misconduct," he said.

"If Paula Jones insists on having her day in court and her trial, and she really wants to put her reputation at issue as we hear, we are prepared to do it."

Mr Bennett, who said he had been given strict orders by the President the previous night, added that Mr Clinton was not averse to an out-of-court settlement involving the payment of Mrs Jones's legal fees and a donation to a charity of her choice. "But we are not going to line her pockets or her lawyers' pockets," Mr Bennett said. "This is about money, it's always been about money."

Her lawyers said that their client did not want to profit from the case but they are recommending she seek some financial compensation. Any settlement, they said, must include an apology, an affirmation that her account of the incident is true and a statement that she did nothing wrong in the hotel.

Mrs Jones is seeking \$700,000 (£425,000) in damages for defamation and violation of her civil rights. In an interview with Newsweek published today she said she was not expecting Mr Clinton to admit that he had exposed himself but wanted him to concede that he ordered a state trooper to "come and get me and bring me up to that room".

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Thai

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Passive smoker sues US tobacco giants for \$5bn

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A LANDMARK case in which a Mormon air stewardess is suing Philip Morris, makers of Marlboro cigarettes, for \$5 billion (£3 billion) damages for injury suffered through passive smoking in flight cabins begins today in the Dade County Circuit Court, Florida.

Observers are calling the case, the first involving a passive smoker, the tobacco trial of the century.

The action is being taken by Norma Broin, 42, who discovered in 1989 that she had a particularly virulent form of lung cancer. A non-smoker by religion and inclination, she attributes her illness to the inhalation, over 13 years of working on aircraft, of other people's smoke.

Joined to the suit against Philip Morris are RJR Nabisco, Loews, Lorillard, the Brooke Group Ltd, American Brands, The American Tobacco Group and the Liggett Group — a virtual "who's

who" of the cigarette world. Mrs Broin's suit is a "class action" — she is claiming damages on behalf of some 60,000 non-smoking flight attendants who allegedly contracted lung diseases and other ailments from "second-hand smoke" on American commercial flights. The suit is the first such "class action" against the country's powerful tobacco companies.

What makes this case really different from the vast body of ongoing tobacco suits, however, is the fact that Mrs Broin and her co-suitors are suing as passive smokers.

If Mrs Broin wins, the industry can expect to be sued by thousands of others in America who, as non-smokers, claim to suffer from the ill-effects of passive smoking through no "fault" of their own.

Tobacco companies have, to date, tended to benefit in court from a simple argument: if a

person smokes, he or she engages in an activity of their choice. The consequences, therefore, are for that person to bear.

John Coffee, a professor at the Columbia University Law School in New York, explained: "Smokers who buy a packet of cigarettes have been given warnings that make them aware of the risks. But there is no reason for the jury to agree that these flight attendants assented to whatever risks tobacco posed."

Stanley Rosenblatt, Mrs Broin's counsel, said: "The arguments that smokers accept the risk, which I have never bought myself, certainly don't apply to my plaintiff. She had no choice."

The Florida courtroom promises to turn into a major scientific battleground as the tobacco industry has consistently denied that passive smoking can be blamed for illness.

Yesterday Daniel Donahue, deputy general counsel for the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, insisted that "there is no scientific evidence that would support a jury's finding that environmental tobacco smoke in an airplane cabin causes any diseases".

Expert witnesses for the tobacco industry are expected to argue that ozone, background radiation and "non-tobacco cabin contaminants" were the true causes of Mrs Broin's sickness.

Furthermore, the industry is expected to reject the findings of recent medical studies which argue that passive smoking increases a person's risk of illness.

One such study, which Mrs Broin's lawyers could wave as a battle standard, was published only last month by researchers at Harvard University. After monitoring 32,000 non-smoking nurses over ten years it concluded that passive smoking doubles the risk of heart disease.



Princess Aisha Bint Hussein, King Hussein's daughter and commander of the Jordanian Army women's corps, inspects an Israeli military guard yesterday. She also had talks with Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister

West Bank land sale killings rise

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE gangland-style killings of Palestinians selling land to Jews escalated yesterday when a third body was found dumped in the West Bank, and Israeli police rescued a fourth prospective victim as he was about to be abducted by Palestinian agents.

The three murders came after the Palestinian Authority, led by Yassir Arafat, imposed the death penalty on Arabs selling property to Jews.

As tensions over the land issue rose on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide yesterday, a new group calling itself "The Guardians of the Holy Lands" claimed responsibility for all three executions.

Israeli and Western intelligence experts believe the group to be a front for Mr Arafat's security services.

Fears of more rough justice being meted out were raised when Freith Abu Medein, the Justice Minister, announced that he had names of 200 land dealers sentenced to death in absentia by Jordan. Some Palestinians claimed the shadowy death squads may now try and carry out the sentences, which Jordan never attempted to administer.

Mr Abu Medein also said that at least 18 Arabs had so far been detained for questioning about land sales. Human rights activists believe some may be victims of torture in Palestinian jails where 14 people have died since the 1993 peace accord gave birth to the Palestinian Authority.

Khader Shkeirat, a prominent Palestinian human rights lawyer, appealed yesterday for the end of the death penalty. He said: "If there is any suspicion that someone sold land to the Israelis, he should be tried in an open court."

Referring to the killing, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said: "The murder was carried out with the conspicuous encouragement of top Palestinian Authority officials, which raises a big question mark concerning their intention to reach a peace agreement."

Israeli police said that after the discovery of Jamhour's body they prevented the kidnapping of another suspect who had been bundled into a car by men connected to the Palestinian security.

But for many Palestinians, locked in a bitter battle with Israel over establishing a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and parts of Jerusalem, those who sell land to Jews in these areas are condemned as traitors to the national cause. The victim murdered on Saturday near Ramallah was Mahmoud Ali Jamhour, 34.

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Pope goes home to 'troubled' Poland

BY ROGER BOYES

POPE John Paul II, stooped and shaking from age and illness, returned to Poland at the weekend and spoke of his concern about the "painful problems and tensions" in his homeland.

The 11-day pilgrimage, launched in Wroclaw in southwest Poland, is turning out to be a deeply emotional trip as the hundreds of thousands of Polish believers crowding streets and churches sense that this might be the 77-year-old Pope's last visit.

His first pilgrimage to Poland was in 1979 and it released the energy that spawned the Solidarity movement a year later. Now, clearly marked by Parkinson's disease and moving at a shuffling pace, he seemed to be saying farewell.

"Every time I return home, I am deeply touched... every return to Poland is like a return under the roof of the parental home, where every object reminds me of what is closest and dearest," he said.

But the pilgrimage also has a political edge. Poland is modernising and the Catholic Church, unsure how to react, is deeply divided. The traditional villain, Communism, has been defeated yet its shadow continues to haunt Poland's bishops.

Should the Church defend its terrain, reject European and Nato membership (on the grounds that Western consumerism saps national morale) or should it adapt to changing times and find a new evangelical mission in Europe? The Pope yesterday warned the crowd of the dangers of a society "permeated by ideas of democracy inspired by liberal ideology".

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Weathermen change tack to Spanish Main

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

HURRICANES are now as likely to be male and Hispanic as female and Anglo-Saxon.

America's weather agencies have announced their names for the forthcoming season's hurricanes. The list reads like a celebration of ethnic as well as gender diversity.

The National Weather Service and the Central Pacific Hurricane Centre appear have already buried the time-honoured tradition of naming hurricanes only after women.

The tradition, started by the US Navy in the Second World War, always faced the wrath of feminists, who argue that a phenomenon as destructive as the hurricane ought properly to be male.

Storms visiting the Atlantic this year will be called by such names as Bill, Danny, Fabian, Henri, Larry, Nicholas, Peter and Sam. Forthcoming Pacific hurricanes fare no better: Kevin, Olaf, Rick, Terry and Waldo.

But the Hispanic lobby has also blown fiercely on the subject and the "weather wallops" have responded by reaching for their Spanish saints' list. Seafarers and islanders in the Caribbean can now look forward to hurricanes Ana, Isabel, Juan and Teresa. Those in the Pacific should brace themselves for Andres, Blanca, Carlos, Dolores, Enrique, Felicia, Guillermo, Ignacio and Jimena.

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Ocean heat holds key to hurricane's secrets

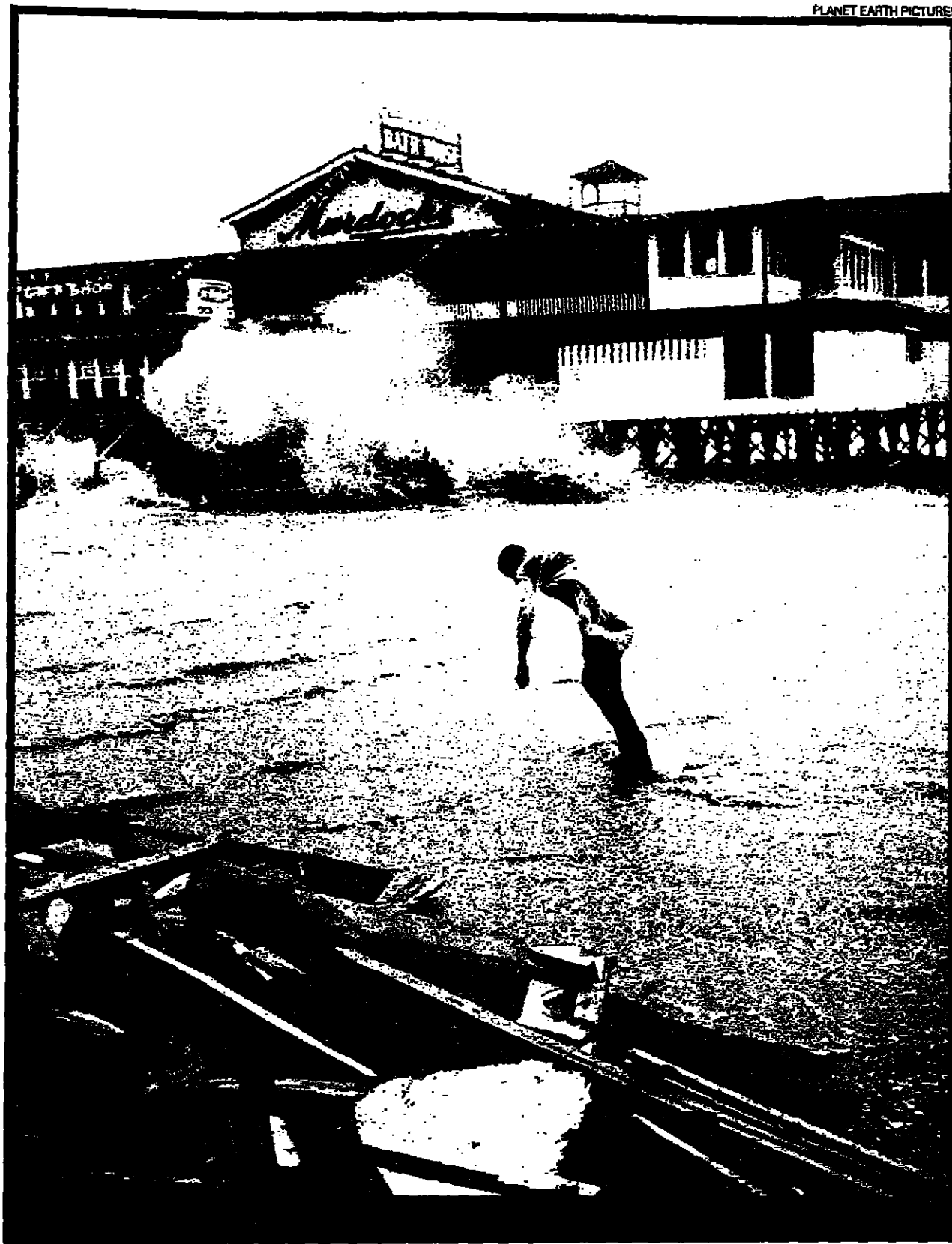
The warmer the sea, the more frequent the hurricanes. Anjana Ahuja reports

For hurricane-watchers, 1995 will go down as one of the most dramatic seasons since records began in 1886. There were 11 hurricanes and 19 tropical storms, figures surpassed only in 1933 and 1969. A fortnight ago, scientists from University College London published compelling statistical evidence that this exceptionally high tally was linked to record sea warming.

Why should we be interested? The 1997 hurricane season officially started yesterday. If the link is to be believed, the season is set to be a prolific one because the sea is already slightly warmer than average. Moreover, other research has suggested that higher sea temperatures whip up more powerful hurricanes, which take longer to die out. That means damage might extend beyond the North Atlantic hurricane hotspots of the Caribbean and the American East Coast. For example, Hurricane Lili survived its spin across the Caribbean last October to wind up on Britain's doorstep. It killed six people and wreaked enormous damage.

Hurricanes, also known as typhoons and cyclones, are whirling tropical storms that register the top score of 12 on the Beaufort scale of wind speed. Typical speeds inside the storm range between 20 and 50 metres per second. The birth of a hurricane starts innocuously enough, with the evaporation of warm ocean waters. The waters need to be at least 27°C. The evaporated water condenses into a cloud, and the condensation releases heat energy. This heat warms up parcels of air in the cloud, and the cloud rises.

In most cases, that is where the process stops. But if there is "spin" in the atmosphere, the cloud can start swirling. Thunderstorm activity is also critical — it can introduce a vortex. As the cloud swirls, the vortex acts as a focal point for a drop in pressure. Winds are sucked in, and feed the vortex. Meanwhile, the warm waters continue to evaporate, bulking out the cloud as it rotates. Another contributing factor is whether wind speed varies with atmospheric height, known as wind shear. If the shear is low, the spinning storm remains upright rather than toppling over. This al-



Hurricane havoc in Texas: British scientists have linked the frequency of winds such as this to sea temperature

lows the hurricane to gather energy, bulk and momentum almost without bounds. During formation, the hurricane glides across the ocean. Typical speeds are 20-30kmh, although they can approach 70kmh. As soon as the storm crosses land, it starts to die.

Dr Mark Saunders and Dr Andrew Harris, from the Greig Fester Centre for Hazard Research at University College London, decided to examine the sea surface tem-

peratures for those years with a high number of hurricanes. They focused on the Atlantic hurricane development region (10-20°N by 20-60°W). This is the birthplace of the hurricanes that hit the Caribbean and America. The four worst hurricanes to hit the area in 1995 — Erin, Luis, Marilyn and Opal — resulted in an insurance payout of \$7 billion. In their paper in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, they concluded that sea sur-

face temperature is the dominant influence on the frequency of hurricanes. The average sea surface temperature for that area is 27.5°C, and in 1995 the temperature rose by 0.7°C, the highest ever increase. "It takes an enormous amount of energy to get that sort of rise," Dr Saunders says.

□ Low-level nuclear exposure may be beneficial

Healthy radiation

PEOPLE have begun to say the unsayable: that radiation in small doses may be good for us. If true, it would overturn decades of well-intentioned advice, save huge amounts of money for industries that handle radioactive material, and ease the worries of people who live in homes exposed to radon gas.



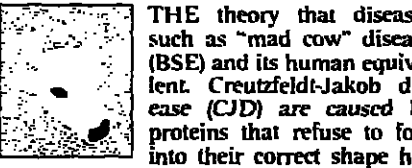
claims. One study, in China, compared 74,000 people who lived in an area with radiation levels three to four times higher than normal with 77,000 people who lived with a normal background level. Cancer rates were lower in the more highly exposed group. Similar findings have been reported from Kerala in India, from Brazil, and in America.

The issue has been given new life as a result of studies of atom bomb survivors. These show that people who were far enough from the blast to have received only a low dose of radiation actually outlived those who were not exposed to radiation at all.

Similar results have come from other studies, as John Graham, a former president of the American Nuclear Society, summarised in a speech to a London meeting of the Uranium Institute last year. Mr Graham said that there was now "reasonable to good" evidence that low-level radiation was beneficial.

Those who believe there is a threshold below which radiation is not damaging argue that man has evolved in a world bathed in low-level radiation from rocks and cosmic rays. Such radiation can certainly damage cells, but cell damage is an everyday event for which repair mechanisms exist.

Research into yeast boosts BSE theory



THE theory that diseases such as "mad cow" disease (BSE) and its human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), are caused by proteins that refuse to fold into their correct shape has been given a boost by research into yeast.

Nasa joins Japanese asteroid mission



THE Japanese Institute of Space and Astronautical Sciences has set itself a tough target: landing on an asteroid just one kilometre in diameter and bringing back samples for study. The mission, set for launch in January 2002, recently got a boost when Nasa agreed to build a rover vehicle that will be added to the payload.

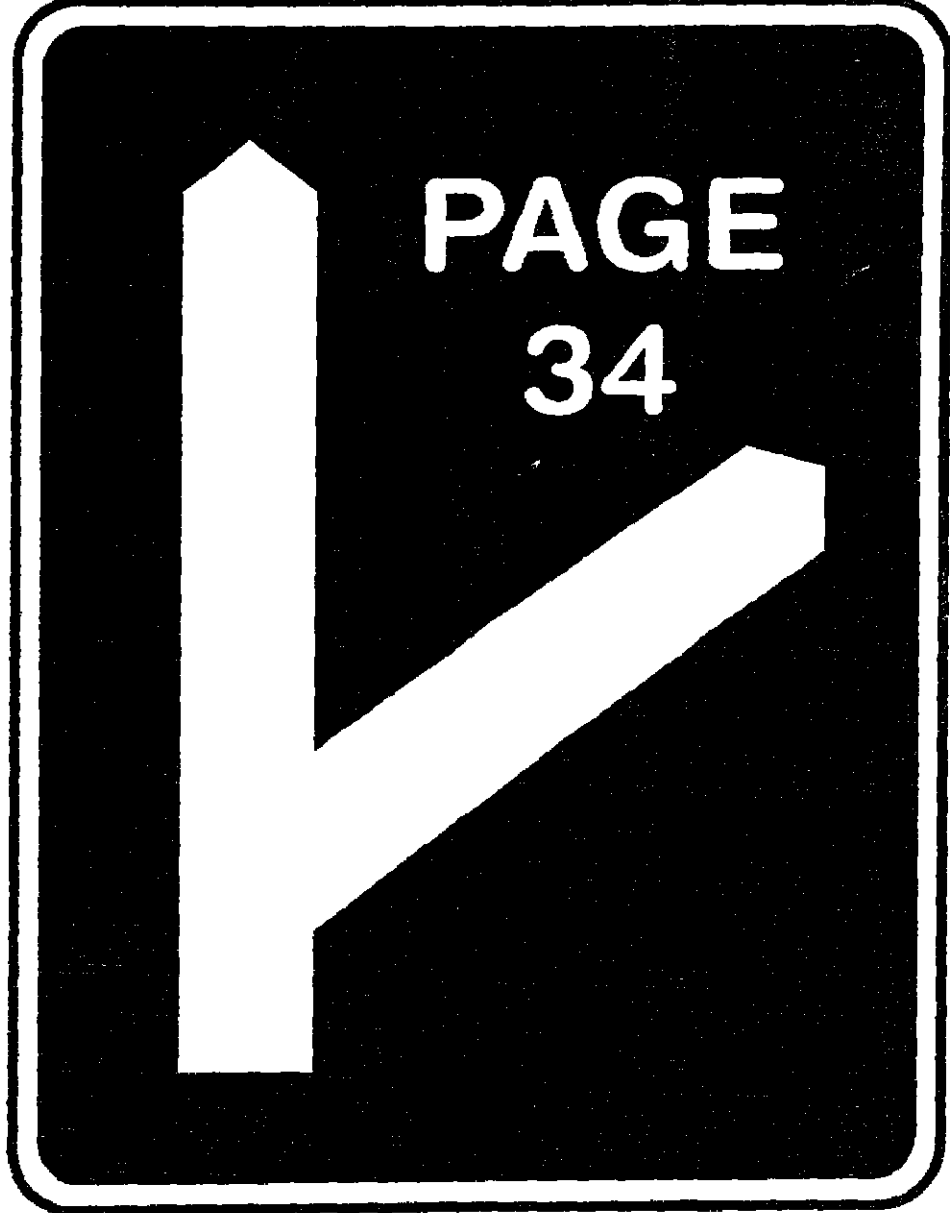
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However, the authors, whose research was funded by the Natural Environmental Research Council, have suggested that it involves a strange atmospheric phenomenon known as the temperature inversion layer. As a rule, temperature drops with height. But at about one to two kilometres above the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, this rule reverses. The temperature starts rising again. As with so much in hurricane research, the origin of the temperature inversion layer is unknown.

THE GREAT FORD GIVE-AWAY.



TURN TO PAGE 34.

Brief encounter in Carnforth

Stooped and broken like an ancient prizefighter, the big man blinking against the sunshine seems almost grateful to be confronted by an unwelcome caller. Perhaps any distraction is better than the guilty solitude that only a spoilt priest can experience.

Roderick Wright, the former Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles who fathered a child by one woman before running away with a divorced mother of three, is now living with her in their small, three-bedroom house on an estate in Carnforth, Lancashire.

It is the couple's second home together: they came here from their first "love nest" in Kendal, hoping to escape the notoriety that enveloped them after selling their story to the *News of the World*. He is unemployed, and fills the hours decorating room by room.

"Now you are here you had better come inside... but how did you find out where I was living?" he asks.

The "shamed" bishop appears to have given up all pretence that the relationship which ended his career in the Church is non-sexual.

"There was a clash between celibacy and desire — I lost and, because of that, have caused suffering to so many, myself included."

He admits that he is unhappier and more ashamed of himself now than he was last September when public disclosure of his philandering sent shock waves through the Church.

"There are so many black days and there are a few slightly better ones," he volunteers. "But then, what should I expect when I have let so many people down?"

Since his spectacular fall from grace, Wright has been pursued by the demons of his conscience.

"The suffering I have caused will not leave me alone. Wouldn't you feel guilty if, as a Catholic bishop in your mid-50s, you had allowed this to happen?"

In a storyline twist worthy of Graham Greene, Wright and his lover, Kathy MacPhee, have chosen to make what they hope will be their permanent home in a market town made famous on film for the triumph of restraint over sexual desire. Carnforth station was, of course, the setting for *Brief Encounter*, the classic 1945 weepie starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson, who, despite their immediate passion for each other, decided that duty counted for more than love.

The message is not lost on Roderick Wright, a man with time on his hands and sin on his mind. Unemployed and palpably miserable, he plays constantly with a heavy gold crucifix at his neck.

"I keep thinking about the pain that I have caused. I keep wondering how this has happened," he says. As he speaks,

The disgraced former Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll has moved to Lancashire with his lover.
Interview by Bill Frost



At first the bishop denied rumours

Wright paces the small living room and fingers a bandage on his ear. "I have had this infection for weeks and the antibiotics don't seem to be working. I suppose I am just run-down."

While Mrs MacPhee, 41, works as a supply nurse at a nearby hospital — staff have been told to deny that she is employed there — her lover decorates their new home. He enjoys painting and there is nothing else to do but wait for her return.

He obviously dreads inactivity in the quiet close where they have settled. The neighbours are friendly enough but his memories torture him. "I suppose everyone has turned against me, and I am not surprised," says Wright.

As though on a taped loop, his conversation returns again to pain, remorse and regret. The tiny front room has become a confessional.

"I just feel I have let so many people down," he says. "How could I ever have let this happen?"

Wright admits that he will never forgive himself, nor will his accusers. The former bishop is the first to agree that so many have been betrayed: his Church, his flock and at least one former lover, Joanna

Whibley spent 15 years believing that he would abandon his vocation for family life and acknowledge their son Kevin. Last September she read how he had left Mother Church only to live with Mrs MacPhee. Like so many others, she had been duped. For while Wright was organising his new life, he had promised the mother of his child that he would visit them both to "honour a pledge". When Wright failed to show up, she was stunned.

"I did not totally expect him to come, but he said he would, and I had no reason to expect that he would lie so monumentally. In my heart I did not think he would, but in my head I thought it inconceivable to think that someone could lie."

Then, days later, the story broke. "It was a very painful business, having my stupidity held up for everybody to see. But in the end it is quite a small price to pay for the truth to be told."

"I want this whole sorry business to go away. Sometimes I look on it as a joke. Here is Roddy, this bishop, who has run away from reality, taking a nurse to look after him in his frailty."

"I have been stupid, but he is being stupid again and again and again. Whether it is wickedness or madness, I don't know," she said last Christmas.

There is small wonder at her fury: the remarks came as the press revealed how Mrs MacPhee's "sexy red knickers hung next to the bishop's large blue Y-fronts" on the washing line in the garden of their first home together in Kendal. And despite the couple's claims that the relationship was "non-sexual", neighbours spoke of "a double bed and giggles in the night".

There were other betrayals, too. Wright had been confronted by his superiors three years before his affair with Mrs MacPhee became public property and told Cardinal Thomas Winning, Scotland's most senior Catholic churchman, that there was no truth in such "scurrilous rumours" of philandering.

When his bishop fled to the Lake District, Winning declared: "I don't know what to believe any more." His deputy, the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, was less equivocal.

"When one opens a can of worms, one just doesn't realise what is at the bottom of it," he said. "This Roddy Wright has had a weakness with regard to sexuality. To call him a modern-day Judas would be an accurate description. He has sold himself to the highest bidder."

In Oban, Father Sean MacAulay, parish priest for what was Wright's cathedral, at first expressed compassion. "Roddy must have spent every day in great torture — I don't think he would



Together: but Roderick Wright's relationship with Kathy MacPhee has left him riddled with guilt and remorse

have seen himself as living a lie," he said. Time soured his view, though. "I cannot express my disgust at hearing he has done this... it is all over now. Like Christ was betrayed by someone for 30 pieces of silver, perhaps we feel similarly betrayed."

The words ring still in Wright's ears as he nervously picks flecks of paint from his tracksuit bottoms. However, nothing said by his critics can be as bad as the verdict

he passes on himself. "There was a story last month that I was on unemployment pay, plus £300 a month in housing benefit. It was all nonsense — I am not claiming anything. My partner is working and I live with her."

"Before we moved here from Kendal, there were high-speed chases as I took Kathleen to work at the hospital — anything for a photograph of us together. So, sure, one gets upset and paranoid."

The tape loop kicks in once more and Wright talks of his remorse: *mea maxima culpa*.

"I let people down and caused so much pain. Perhaps I will write a book one day to explain how and why this happened... but not yet, it is all too painful."

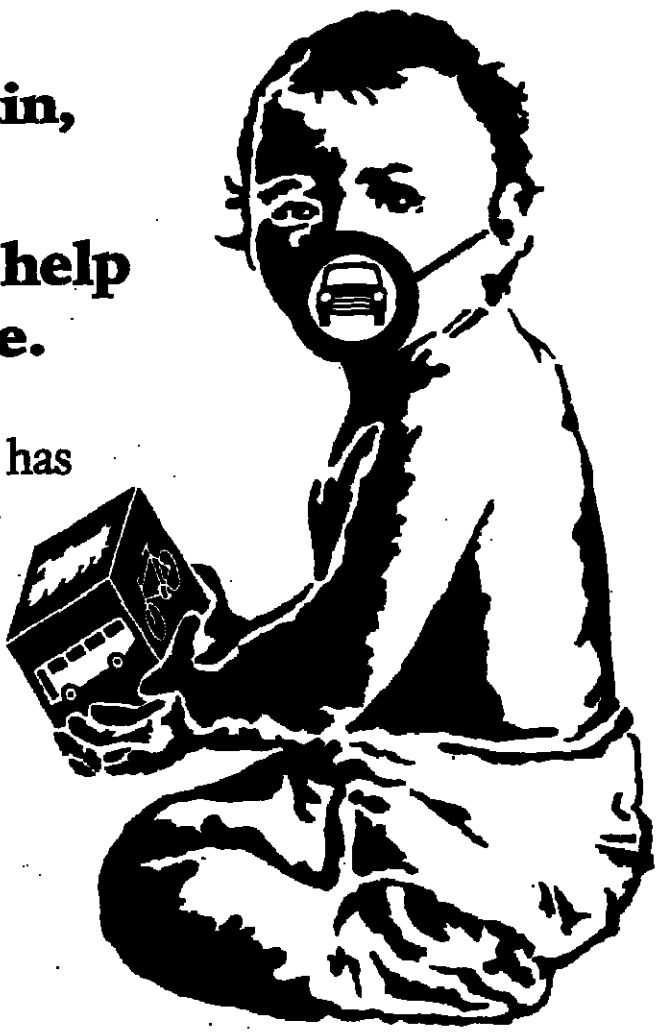
Wright has learnt his confession off by heart. However, he is as unwilling to forgive himself as his victims are to forgive him.

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June 1997

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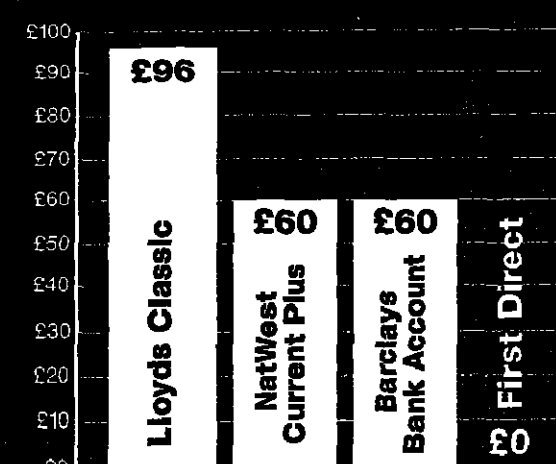
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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

Paintings and sculpture galore as the Royal Academy lifts the lid on the 229th edition of its Summer Exhibition
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ MUSICAL

Jerry Lewis leads the Broadway production of the baseball musical *Damn Yankees* into the West End
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ DANCE

Mark Morris brings his 1980s hit *L'Allegro* to the Coliseum in association with ENO
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ POP

After a six-year hiatus, the Pet Shop Boys are back, with a three-week residency at the Savoy Theatre
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

Why dialects are dying beyond our ken

In 1969 a Mrs E.R. Fieldhouse produced a survey on local dialect. She questioned 248 schoolchildren in Barrow-in-Furness. As a follow-up in 1993, a Mr J.T. Franks did a similar survey. If you are interested in the roots of our language and what we nourish from the past, I suggest you tighten your seatbelts or come back to this column when you are reinforced by melancholy at the end of a day which has yet again failed the test.

Because the results make more reading for those of us who see the dialect as the soul-speak of the old countryside, the register of a living past, the conduit of a fertile tradition.

In 1969 44 pupils knew of and used the word *swill* (an oval basket woven from oak laths). In 1993 only one pupil used or understood the word. Lunning (lane) — much easier to retain, you might think, especially in the wild North — scored 35 in 1969 and a desolate three in 1993. Slape (slippery), another word surely indomitable

in a cold and icy climate, scored 50 in 1969 and two in 1993.

Some other words did a little better. Lile (same as laal, meaning little or small) scored 50 in 1969 and 25 in 1993. Yam (home) scored 51 and 27; sneck (latch of a door or gate) 45 and 10.

But to come down from these rather modest heights of retention, there were many words quite well known in 1969 which figured not at all in the patois of the young in Barrow-in-Furness 24 years later. And there were howlers seemingly planted especially for the guardians of dialect — crack (talk or conversation) meant to the young, yes, a drug; ken (to know) was a character in *Coronation Street*.

The above comes largely from William Rollinson's book *The Cumbrian Dictionary of Dialect, Tradition and Folklore*. I wrote a foreword to the book and count

Bill Rollinson as a friend. Nevertheless, as well as providing pasture for those who go laking (one of Wordsworth's only known jokes was to pun laking — playing — with laking — touring the Lake District), the book raises a number of crucial points.

Perhaps the most brutal is, who cares? Nobody much, it seems, save a few embattled natives and a strolling cast of interested tourists.

But does the culture care? The culture which is so — impressively — open to all sorts of ethnic imports, so keen to multiply our religious teaching and historical teaching and language teaching, and all credit to that. But what, one might say, about those of us who come from deeply seated cultures inside these islands, cultures which riddle Shakespeare and glory Burns and grit Lawrence



and give weight and authority to Hardy and have risen again, miraculously, in the contemporary Glasgow street school? Is the BBC the culprit, with its juggernaut standardisation for so

much of this century — an accent I now recognise around part of my life and to some extent participate in, but one which I know for many reasons alienates millions? Or is it the remorseless colonisation of Estuary English begun — one might only a little fancifully argue — by Chaucer and chewing away ever since? Is it the voice of power and authority which demands a clean bill of mouth before entry is allowed in influential corridors? Or is it, more kindly, the inevitable result of the concentration through faster and faster communications of what has increasingly become a small, compact country?

In my schooldays we had two languages, as near as dammit. When I spoke accented dialect I was — thankfully — incomprehensible to my teachers, who reacted by caning this rough beast until it did not dare give voice in the

classroom. I also learnt to talk comprehensible English, albeit (now there's another useful throw-back) equally accented, as was happily pointed out to me by the young gentlemen of Oxford University in 1952. No bones broken.

In my first novel I represented the country people talking in the dialect which looks on the page like muddy boots on a newly fitted carpet. My editor, David Farrer, said that it was no doubt very true but it would not travel. I kept it and the book did travel, but his comment became an admonition and, looking back, I began to heed it. Or perhaps it was that as my life centred more and more on London, the sound and feeling of those old words began to fade.

But now the news comes from Barrow-in-Furness that we are in the death throes. Just as that part

of our countryside which is not a factory has now become a national park — a wonderful simulacrum of nature — so dialect is now "taken up" all over the land by societies and publishers eager to revisit what is clearly our own rooted world, but also a world fading fast.

Why did we not fight harder for what is so profoundly ours? The itch to find a culprit will not go away. We have willingly stamped out the dialect and let it go in an act of complicit vandalism not dissimilar to that which destroyed our monasteries. We have pushed out our early spoken language as surely as precious traditions in Africa and the Amazon have been crushed. Perhaps there is no use for it in our sleek, screened, Internetted silent world. No need for babble and blatin, no need for ahint and aslew, for douker and every, for gawp and girt, kyne and lait, quindam and cyle, taggett and throstle... I can't help thinking that we are much the poorer for it.

OPERA: The Royal Opera opens its Verdi Festival with a fine revival. Plus, a definitive Janáček staging in Glasgow

Like Christmas every day

Bright-eyed, bushy-tailed

This year's Verdi Festival opened in grand style on Friday with Sir Georg Solti, the Royal Opera's music director laureate, conducting Elijah Moshinsky's staging of Verdi's final thoughts on *Simon Boccanegra* (1881): it will end in six weeks' time with a new production of his first, 1857 version. Hitherto the latter has been written off as little more than "interesting", but a concert performance in the first

Simon Boccanegra
Covent Garden

Verdi Festival two years ago revealed a work of unexpected consistency and power, and a full-scale staging was immediately planned. Such acts of rediscovery and re-evaluation are part of what this noble seven-year project is all about. In between come *Rigoletto*, the first version of *Macbeth* and concerts of *Otello*, plus all manner of ancillary events from lectures by Pierluigi Petrobelli, dean of Verdi scholarship, to sessions with rare recordings and play-readings. There may be people in the world who don't believe that Verdi is among the greatest of all opera composers — though they will not be found at my dinner table — but for everyone else the next six weeks will be Christmas Day with the repeat-button firmly pressed.



Kiri Te Kanawa as Amelia in Elijah Moshinsky's production: "There are things she does more eloquently than any other soprano of our time"

No need for re-evaluation at Friday's *Boccanegra*, save to note gratefully that this revival was far better than the last, rather dismal showing two years ago, the dramatic focus

tighter, the lighting more careful — and Michael Yeargan's beautiful Renaissance settings do rely on subtlety of light to make their effect.

Sir Georg proved to be the sprightliest of octogenarians, ever-attentive to matters of dynamic and detail, eyes and hands shooting clear instructions to both pit and stage with characteristic authority. May be the man's sheer energy led to his Soltianly pushing on a little too eagerly in the earlier scenes — the father-daughter recognition duet seemed a bit of a scramble — but the Council Chamber ensemble had authentic Veridian thrust and the perfectly moulded death scene could not have been more autumnal.

Many of the cast were the same as when the production was new in 1991, and Alexandru Agache was in stunning form in the title role. Tall and heavily built, he is perfect casting physically; you really believe this man is a pirate when he bursts on stage in the Prologue. He manages the ageing process with great

skill and — supported on two sticks, racked with the pain of slow poison — seemed to shrink to half his size in the last act. His singing is equally imposing and varied: the great outburst in the Council Chamber stopped the heart with its sheer vocal power, and was balanced by the sweetest *pianissimo* top F at the end of the recognition duet.

As before, he found an ideal antagonist in the Fiesco of Roberto Scanduzzi, whose presence is equally imposing

— his straight-backed carriage properly patrician, his eyes flashing with righteous anger. Scanduzzi's cavernous bass tone, through which every word is crisply projected, is just the job, and the final reconciliation of these two old enemies in the last act was profoundly stirring.

Kiri Te Kanawa returned as Amelia, a role long in her repertoire and one of which she knows every nook and cranny. She may "manage" the voice with more care than some-

times in the past, but there are things she does, especially her soaring hymn to peace in the Council Chamber, more eloquently than any other soprano of our time. Alan Opie was once more an iago-scale Paolo, and while ideally a heavier tenor than Marcello Giordani is needed for Gabriele, once past some early pitch problems he didn't let the side down. A good opening evening.

RODNEY MILNES

With *Katya Kabanova* playing at Covent Garden, and *The Makropoulos Case* poised to open at Glyndebourne, Britain lacked only *The Cunning Little Vixen* to complete the triptych of operas which Janáček wrote in the last feverishly creative ten years of his life. Scottish Opera has provided the missing panel in a robust and earthy revival at the Theatre Royal of David Pountney's now well-nigh definitive production.

As a dragonfly leaps over a sleeping badger, as parasols bloom into spring, and as owls click their knitting needles high in the treetops, Rebecca Evans makes her *foxy Scottish* Opera debut, bushy of tail, and bright of eye and voice.

There may have been more seductive movers in the role — indeed, Stuart Hopps's revival and choreography as a whole has a disarmingly rough-hewn quality about it — but there have been few Vixens in the history of this production to equal Evans in sheer vocal sensuousness. The Welsh soprano's ripe and clear enunciation is delightfully tinted by many a native hue: Milk Wood seems not so very far from Moravia as she wakes Mr Badger with a pert "So he's found 'is tongue at last!"

Speech rhythms were, for Janáček, "windows into the soul of man" and, as they are filtered into this score together with the myriad sounds of nature lovingly transcribed and assimilated by the composer throughout his life, so the listener is engaged at a uniquely deep, often subconscious level. Janáček even notated the sound of silence itself; and he filled his journal for 1922 with the sound of all

that lived, moved and had its being, "collecting suitable company for my Cunning Little Vixen".

The insect-like movement of bow on string can make the skin itch, just as the woodwind elegies make the heart ache. With the Scottish Opera Orchestra conducted by Martin Andre emphasising the physicality and the dance within the music, the score took on a

The Cunning Little
Vixen
Glasgow

bold, rather than a nervously finely-tuned, presence.

Ensemble on stage is, as yet, stronger than that in the pit. Neil Archer's Fox and Stephen Gadd's Poacher potently activate that moment of sudden rapture when their love-songs collide. The Forester, Janáček's bridge between the animal and human worlds, finds David Barrell nicely raw of edge and bright of detail, providing an energetic foil for the plaintive Schoolmaster tenor of Peter Hoare, and for William McCue's venerable and melancholy Parson.

The young of all breeds are too numerous to mention; yet a loud croak of praise is especially due to Thomas Dean's fearlessly projected Frog. As he gives the cue for the Forester's final epiphany of nature's cycle, the *Vixen* (which plays tomorrow, Thursday and Saturday before moving to Newcastle and Edinburgh) seems a fitting herald of summer.

HILARY FINCH

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25th Anniversary Fundraising Gala Concert

in aid of the City of London Sinfonia's Endowment Fund

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Virginia Williams *Wagner* Overture

Walton excerpts from *Porgy & Bess*

Gerard Whelan *Rhapsody in Blue* and excerpts from *Porgy & Bess*

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THEATRE

A new staging of *The Winter's Tale* opens Shakespeare's reconstructed Globe on Bankside
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



OPERA

Paul Daniel conducts the first British performance of Kormgold's *Viola* at Opera North
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



FILM

French director Luc Besson makes his English-language debut with the futuristic epic *Fifth Element*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



MUSIC

The Spitalfields Festival presents the first London performance of a new work by Michael Berkeley
CONCERT: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Old sports and good ones

THEATRE:
That vintage American baseball musical, *Damn Yankees*, is back in London. Matt Wolf meets the team

Broadway doesn't get much more quintessentially American than *Damn Yankees*, the 1955 musical that pits the now-defunct Washington Senators against the New York Yankees in an Eisenhower-era fable concerned in equal measure with baseball and *Faust*. Although British theatre is somewhat more accommodating to the latter legend than to talk of shortstops, fly balls and home runs, the Richard Adler-Jerry Ross-George Abbott musical has had a reasonably robust history on this side of the Atlantic.

Its London premiere played at the Coliseum for 258 performances in 1957, with the skating and dance star Belita paired with Bill Kerr in the roles of Lola and the Devil (originated by Gwen Verdon and Ray Walston). A classical dancer curiously cast in the lead, Belita was followed after three months by Elizabeth Seal, who had been discovered in the West End in Ross and Adler's previous collaboration, *The Pajama Game*, another show scheduled for imminent London revival. And not 18 months ago, London's enterprising Bridewell Theatre off Fleet Street mounted its own acclaimed small-scale production of *Damn Yankees*, which prompted talk of a West End transfer.

In fact, it is the recent Broadway touring production that the Adelphi Theatre is currently housing — a recast staging of the 1994 New York revival, at whose opening night co-creator Abbott made an emotional appearance, aged 106 (he died not long afterwards). Victor Garber launched the run as the devilish Applegate, the suave conjurer who transforms a middle-aged suburbanite into a youthful slugger, only to be replaced as the run continued by Jerry Lewis, making his Broadway debut. Now 71, Lewis is coming to London in the same Mephistophelean part, which means audiences can get a glimpse of the original "Nutty Professor" even as they hum along to *You Gotta Have Heart* and *Whatever Lola Wants (Lola Gets)*, the musical's best-known numbers.

"It was at the right time, the perfect time in my life. It's the best show I've ever seen in a theatre," says Lewis, explaining a commitment that will keep him with *Damn Yankees* up to the millennium: he hopes to close the production on Broadway on Decem-



Damn Yankees director Jack O'Brien with composer Richard Adler, 75, the only surviving member of the original offstage creative team

ber 31, 1999. Before that a world tour is planned, incorporating Berlin, Toronto and Montreal, Australasia and, of course, Paris, where Lewis is revered.

But might this slice of vintage Americana not suffer the same critical sea change that has afflicted numerous New York exports of late, from *Sylvia*, *The Heidi Chronicles* and *Old Wicked Songs* through to the newest, *Master Class*? "I would have said 10 or 12 years ago that this would be a no-go whatsoever," says the director, Jack O'Brien, who was responsible for revising the book in order to shift some of the musical's Fifties attitudes into the Nineties. (He has also given the song *Two Lost Souls* to Lola and Applegate, so that the leads get an eleven-hour duet.)

But now, says O'Brien, "I think TV and CNN in particular have changed all that. We know a lot about international sports now; we even get snooker, for crying out loud. Now

that the world's gotten smaller, there's a lot more cognisance of what baseball is. More importantly, this isn't a musical about baseball. This is a musical with an affectionate poke at *Faust*, and I dare say Britain knows more about *Faust* than it cares to admit."

O'Brien started the production in 1993 at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, where he has been project director since 1982, with the Royal Shakespeare Company alumni Richard Easton as *Faust*. "The idea that we're here in the West End four years later is such a bafflement to me. It's such a tribute to the show itself and to the whimsical nature of theatre."

"Who knew that this would become Jerry's vehicle? He was not at all what I wrote the piece for. I certainly wasn't thinking about an internation-

al clown. I was thinking about somebody outside of time and someone who was a satirist, and in an odd way, Jerry qualifies on both counts."

Casting a far longer glance back at the show is the co-composer Richard Adler, the lone member of the original offstage creative team who is still alive. "I never in ten million years would have thought this musical would have anything approaching this success, ever," says Adler, an enthusiastic 75-year-old, who called his autobiography *You Gotta Have Heart* after the first-act showstopper.

Adler admits to some scepticism when Abbott first proposed an adaptation of Douglas Wallop's novel, *The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant*. "Nothing about baseball had ever worked before, in the theatre, and I knew that Jimmy and didn't like it. But if Mr Abbott had said to me, 'Let's get to work on the *Scott Tissue Gazette*,' I would have

done that. He was my great friend, my mentor, my guardian in a way."

Forty years on, the show's innocence is what endures, alongside an emphasis — now almost quaint — on the comic element of musical comedy. "I like to go to the theatre and have fun and laugh instead of wincing," says Adler, contrasting his show with this season's Broadway hit, *The Life*, "which is all about hookers and pimps; it's sleazy."

O'Brien places *Damn Yankees* among "those glorious light-hearted musicals of the Fifties that always work in the way that Shakespeare's golden comedies always work. This show was the calling card to a lot of careers of those of us who are out there now. It's not profound, and what better excuse for theatre could you have?"

● *Damn Yankees* is in preview and opens on Wednesday at the Adelphi (0171-413 1777)

LONDON CONCERTS

Fitting praise

Korngold Anniversary
Wigmore Hall

THE 100th anniversary of Erich Wolfgang Korngold's birth could not have come at a better time: Romantic, tonal harmony is back in, and film scores are now taken seriously as a genre. Korngold's reputation is rising higher than ever before, and as more of his works enter the repertoire, it becomes possible to make better informed judgments as to the quality of his oeuvre.

This centenary event introduced us to two chamber works not previously performed in this country. The Suite, Op. 23, for two violins, cello and piano left hand was written for the one-armed Paul Wingenstein. Opening with a formidable cadenza for the pianist that seems determined to compensate for any digital deficiency, the work continues in equally individualistic vein. If the first two movements conjure Korngold's Viennese background — the first in the coffee house, the second the ballroom — it is done in inimitable style. The Scherzo is a precipitate rush into grotesquerie.

Bengt Forsberg, seemingly the moving force behind this revelatory programme, delivered the piano part with aplomb, while Ulf Forsberg and Kjell Lysell (violins) with Mats Lidström (cello) generally triumphed over the music's textural idiosyncrasies.

They were joined by the violinist Veronika von Steinacker for the Piano Quintet in E Major, Op. 15, which strives, like the Suite, against the medium itself. The piano part not merely aspires to concerto status, but emulates the full orchestra as well. Yet the hazy glissandi of the slow movement herald a passage of glorious lyrical inspiration, and it is otherworldly moments like this that signal the true genius of which Korngold was capable.

Bengt Forsberg is best known as Anne Sofie von Otter's accompanist, and he was joined by her for two groups of Korngold's songs, ranging from simple Brahmsian Lied through the painful separation of the *Lieder des Abschieds* to the almost Schoenbergian radicalism of *In meine ferne Nacht*. Von Otter covered that range with consummate artistry and returned to sing, as an encore, *Marietta's Song* from *Die tote Stadt* in a ravishing arrangement by Forsberg himself.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Crushing vitality

LSO/Thielemann
Barbican

WITH *Elektra* still tingling in his baton, Christian Thielemann has Richard Strauss very much on his mind at the moment. So it was no surprise that in his concert with the London Symphony Orchestra the composer was almost stiflingly omnipresent.

The evening began with the double string orchestra version of the late *Metamorphosen*, a threnody for the postwar physical and spiritual destruction of German culture. The moment is focused in Strauss's own quotation, towards the end, of the halting rhythmic figure from the Funeral March of Beethoven's *Eroica Symphony*. And in Thielemann's performance the work moved relentlessly towards this point, super-scribed by Strauss with the words "In memoriam".

Some of the strings' entries seemed to blur rather than clearly Strauss's varied polyphonic textures. And this tendency reappeared in the *Eroica* itself which followed

after the interval. At first this promised to be a performance of some excitement. With cellos and basses barked up to left and centre of the stage, the low groan of the beginning of the Funeral March seemed to come from the innermost being of the orchestra. Forward movement seemed constantly dragged back so that Strauss's own anguished lament echoed and re-echoed once again.

But before long the thick, sustained textures created by Thielemann began to be as mannered and oppressive as the aggressively driven and finally lifeless finale. There was more life-affirming exuberance and less brute force in Beethoven's heroism than Mr Thielemann's philosophy seems to know or to care for.

HILARY FINCH

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A sheep in Wolf's clothing?

Timothy Garton Ash on the real face of a spymaster

What are we to make of Markus "Mischa" Wolf? Despite his recent conviction by German court, the former East German spymaster may soon be visiting Britain to promote his already much-hyped memoirs, *Man Without a Face*. He is irresistible copy, of course. Billed as "the real-life Karla" — although John le Carré has always insisted that Wolf was not the model for any of his characters — the word "legendary" sticks to him like fluff to a nylon jacket.

He was called "the man without a face" because, until 1978, Western secret services did not have even a photograph of him. With the aid of his so-called "Romero" spies, sent to seduce lonely secretaries in Bonn, he ran one of the most successful intelligence operations in postwar Europe. A fluent Russian-speaker, a gifted cook, good-looking, articulate, the gurgling newspaper profile just writes itself.

On the other side, unseen, never profiled, there are the people to whose fate the German court has now drawn our attention: a 26-year-old secretary abducted to East Berlin, where the Stasi tried to "persuade" her to spy on her American employers; a Stasi officer and his girlfriend who, having defected to the West, were kidnapped back to the East and then imprisoned for many years; the Leipzig printworker who was imprisoned for 200 days while the Stasi tried to "persuade" him to help to frame Willy Brandt as a Nazi collaborator.

In all these cases, the court held Wolf to be directly responsible in the chain of command. On this dark side, too, are the ruined lives of agents and their life-partners which Wolf coolly recounts in his book and the Stasi's support for international terrorism, including the PLO and "Carlos". All this has led one of our leading academic specialists on intelligence matters, Christopher Andrew, to characterise him bluntly as a "thug".

I have spent a good part of the past few years dissecting the Stasi, starting from the strange experience of reading my own Stasi file, and I talked to Wolf in Berlin last year. I find that the reality is more complicated. Neither legendary superman nor simple thug, Wolf was the head of a very effective secret service. His memoirs provide further vivid evidence of the way that West Germany was penetrated from top to bottom. The intellectual son of a playwright, and brother of a leading film-director, Wolf also makes really interesting reflections on the historical context of Cold War spying — and particularly on why West Germans agreed to work for the East.

Charming, well-dressed, thoughtful, he is quite unlike all the other pot-bellied, narrow-minded, philistine Stasi officers whom I have tracked down in their gloomy bungalows. In this sense he is the Albert Speer of East Germany.

(This is not, let me say at once, to equate the evils of communist Germany with those of Nazi Germany.) Yet, like Speer, he still needs a Gitta Sereny to drag out of him the full acknowledgement of his responsibility, knowledge and guilt.

This still unacknowledged truth is not so much about what his foreign intelligence service got up to abroad. Rather, it is about the repressive system they very directly served. Again and again, he tries to suggest that the gentlemen of his service had little or nothing to do with the brutish players of the domestic Stasi. "They did their work, I did mine," he writes at one point. In fact, his foreign service was closely integrated with that vast apparatus of internal repression which made East Germany, in say, 1984, the closest we have so far come to the state of total surveillance imagined by George Orwell in 1984.

Their offices were in the same scaled-off complex of the Ministry for State Security. They co-operated with the domestic spooks and thugs on countless cases. One of Wolf's former agents, a certain Knud Wollenberger, has become one of the most notorious examples of domestic betrayal in East Germany: he spied on his own wife from the moment they met. Wolf himself was a deputy to the minister, Erich Mielke, and worked with him for more than 30 years. They even shared a bedroom when they went to Moscow on official business.

Did Wolf ever seriously question the paranoid extension of the domestic security apparatus, to which, by the end, one in every 50 East Germans had some direct connection? Did he criticise what he delicately calls their "often harsh methods"? Not by his own account. Not by anyone else's. Indeed, two of his former senior officers describe him as reverential to authority.

Just because he was different — educated, sophisticated — he was the one who should have known better. And because he enjoyed protection at the highest level in Moscow he could have afforded to speak out behind closed doors. But instead, he obediently served, like all the rest. When his doubts finally grew, in the 1980s, he simply took early retirement, negotiating what the memoirs call a "separation package" which included a chauffeur-driven car and the nice flat overlooking the River Spree where he still lives. Only in 1989, when the risk of criticising was very low, did he restyle himself in a heroic self-image of intellectual dissent.

On the surface, he is so unlike all those other retired Stasi officers whom I talked to in their tawdry bungalows, nursing their small beers and grievances. Yet, underneath, deep down, he is so like them. Here is the great spymaster's last secret: he was a sheep in wolf's clothing.

Timothy Garton Ash's *The File: A Personal History* will be published in early July by HarperCollins.

Sympathy cannot shield the helmsman who steered his party into the iceberg like a Tory Titanic

Why Major cannot escape the blame

William Rees-Mogg

About nine months before the election I met one of the Conservative planners who had access to all their private polls and contact groups. He was not particularly optimistic, and used a phrase which stuck in my memory. "It depends on whether people have got over their anger," I think the public did to some extent get over their anger, but that it was converted into a sour distaste for the Tory Government. That was accentuated by the broader feeling that it was time for a change.

What caused the original anger which so alienated the electorate? It was the handling of the recession of the early 1990s, a recession which was particularly painful for Conservative voting groups, the first recession in 60 years which seriously hit the prosperous South of England. In the recession many small businesses failed, many managers were made redundant, all homeowners saw their homes lose value, some lost their homes or were forced to sell on a depressed market. The recession had financial consequences which also broke up many marriages. By the

end of 1992, I did not know a single middle-class family who had not experienced financial pressure or anxiety. You had to be very rich to fly above that storm. The anxiety was accentuated by the catastrophe of Lloyd's. Even if that affected only a narrower group, it totally ruined many of them.

Some of these families have now made a full recovery, but when a business goes bankrupt, it is finished; when a middle-aged manager loses his job, he seldom gets as good a one; when the house is sold, it is gone for ever.

The people who were suffering included the core of the old Tory support. They blamed the depth of the recession on the Government's policy, on joining the exchange-rate mechanism at too high a rate, on high interest rates, on the bank squeeze. They also resented the tax increases of the 1990s. They were suspicious of the Maastricht treaty and the single currency proposal.

All of these policies were personally associated with John Major, either as Chancellor or Prime Minister. The middle-class felt that they had been led into a trap. In the 1980s they had been encouraged to buy their own homes, to start their small businesses, to take on more staff, to build the enterprise economy by expanding their debts. When the recession came, the Government did nothing to help them: it just stood by as the banks foreclosed. The final and unforgiv-

able insult was John Major's complacent remark: "If it isn't hurting, it isn't working." Those who had lost their homes, sometimes their families, their jobs or their businesses between 1990 and the end of 1992 were not voting Conservative in 1997. Why should they have done so? Some loyal Conservatives still love John Major; these people do not.

For all of these things, there was never any apology, even after the exchange rate policy had collapsed. On the contrary, the Government, including John Major and Kenneth Clarke, endlessly congratulated themselves on the recovery which followed the abandonment of their policy. John Major undoubtedly bears the main responsibility for the mishandling of the recession, but he also failed to restore confidence in his Government after the pound had been forced out of the ERM.

Nor did Kenneth Clarke help. Capital gains tax on long-term investment is a big issue for entrepreneurs, who need to be able to sell their businesses. There was rollover relief, but the 40 per cent rate is known by everyone to be far too high. Clarke did not introduce a lower long-term rate. Businessmen felt that he was at best a Chancellor who knew nothing about their concerns, and perhaps was too left-wing to care.

John Major's leadership, like that of George Bush, always had a problem with "the vision thing". His followers asked for inspiration: he fed them fudge. He behaved more like a whip than a leader. The ideas on which to rebuild the Tory party are not simply Thatcherism, but they will have to build on her work, on personal initiative, deregulation, lower taxes, opportunity, competition, enterprise. If the Tories allow Labour to become the party of business, they really will be finished.

Opening a doorway to the past

The Left's victory in France will do Tony Blair no favours, says Peter Riddell

Forget the international solidarity of the Left. The French election results are bad news for Tony Blair. The big win of the Socialists represents a victory for "old" Labour and a vote for a defensive, protectionist attitude and against economic reform. It will strengthen the forces opposed to Mr Blair's attempt to create a new European social policy based on flexible labour markets.

The main focus in the past few days has been on the threat to the planned start of European monetary union from the undermining of President Jacques Chirac's political authority, and from the public dispute between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Bundesbank. These developments are obviously very important, but it is a mistake to believe that if monetary union is delayed, or a weak euro is established, that somehow lets Britain, and the Blair Government, off the hook.

The gains from a weaker President Chirac and Chancellor Kohl would be the French Socialists and German Social Democrats. Both Lionel Jospin in France and Oskar Lafontaine in Germany have been eager to jump on the Blair bandwagon since May 1. But their vision of Europe is profoundly different from his. It is not just that they object to the fiscal tightening involved in meeting the Maastricht criteria for monetary union. They also advocate social and employment policies specifically rejected by new Labour.

Labour's European policy has been an act of faith, a belief that Europe has turned its back on the social model of the 1980s involving extensive new regulations and additional costs for business that discourage job



creation. Mr Blair has insisted that the social chapter is merely "a sensible procedure for setting certain Europe-wide minimum standards", while Labour would not extend qualified majority voting to social security and would keep matters concerning pay and the right to strike out of the social chapter.

Mr Blair has argued that the mood has changed throughout Europe and that his "new" Labour views on the importance of flexibility, alongside measures to improve "employability", are shared by leaders such as Wim Kok in The Netherlands and Veltroni in Italy. Labour's vision is a manifesto during the election claimed that "there is no appetite among other EU governments for significant new labour market legislation".

On arriving in Downing Street, Mr

Blair discovered that the old appetites had not yet been satisfied. Several proposals were in the pipeline that might add to business costs, as was underlined when Jacques Santer, the Commission President, sent a letter to heads of government calling for a stronger "social Europe". At the Noordwijk meeting of European leaders ten days ago, Mr Blair was, according to President Chirac, the only leader to question the European "social model" and to speak in favour of flexibility. He made plain his opposition to any measures in the social chapter that would damage competitiveness.

Mr Blair is trying to develop what he calls a "third way" between the traditional European social model

and what the continental Left dismisses as the "ultra-liberal" model of free-market Anglo-Saxon capitalism. The Blair version embraces the competitive world of "globalisation" and is anti-protectionist, unlike many on both the Left and Right in France. He believes the key to creating jobs is flexible labour markets, while government's role is to remove barriers to hiring people and to increase employability through better education and skills training.

All that sounds fine as an aspiration. But can Mr Blair reconcile flexible markets with signing up to the social chapter and endorsing the new employment chapter? He views them in minimalist terms as guarantors of decent standards and merely co-ordinating employment strategies. But there are real tensions between social cohesion and competitiveness,

and striking contrasts in the costs of employing people between Britain and other big European countries.

Moreover, there are differences of emphasis within the Government. Robin Cook last week sounded more enthusiastic about the implications of signing the employment chapter than have either Mr Blair or Gordon Brown. Mr Cook has many allies both within the Government and on the Labour back benches. The balance of these forces will determine not just policy on the social and employment chapters but also the level of the minimum wage and how far the deregulatory measures of the Tory era are reversed or modified.

The humbling of President Chirac and the strengthening of the Left in France — and also to some extent in Germany — will make life harder for Mr Blair and will encourage the "old" Labour forces in London. During the election campaign, M Jospin urged the creation of 700,000 jobs for young people (half in the public sector) and a reduction in weekly working hours from 39 to 35 hours (without loss of pay), and he opposed measures such as privatisation to improve the working of France's cumbersome state sector.

With Herr Lafontaine, he last week issued a joint statement calling for policies that would not only undermine monetary union but would prevent their economies from becoming more competitive. The monetary union debate has been so concentrated on how to meet the borrowing target that it is too often forgotten that many of the measures — such as the tightening of fiscal policy and the micro-policies to free up markets — are inherently desirable.

Mr Blair will later this week attend a European Socialist conference in Sweden. It will be an occasion for celebration — after Mr Blair's landslide victory and following M Jospin's triumph last night. But behind the bland tone of mutual congratulation, Mr Blair is out of step with many of his European Socialist and Social Democrat colleagues. After all, in many ways, he is much more of a Christian Democrat in his outlook and policies.

Zoete suits

AS THE CITY waits for news of a board appointment for John Major, who was once a public relations officer for Standard Chartered bank, there are signs that he is working his friends on the Mediterranean holiday circuit for a position.

In the north of Portugal, where

Norma and the former Prime Minister holiday courtesy of the Symington family, who have port interests in the area, talk among expats concerns a possible position in the investment bank Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

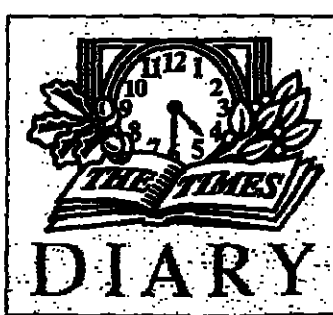
Foremost among Portugal's expat sun loungers is Simon de Zoete, chairman of equities at BZW, who owns a villa down south. And poolside chatter has it that he has interested Major in the bank.

Yesterday BZW was saying nothing about the possibility of employing the former Prime Minister, Standard Chartered, on the other hand, is already playing down the prospect of taking Major back. "The board is pretty full already," said a spokesman.

Informal discussions between BZW and Major, who is said to be keen to mop up a decent salary in the City, have taken place and City punters take the prospect seriously.

Prime cut

DOWN in Gloucestershire, bunting is out as the county cricket team



leads the championship with Lord Vesey, butcher and farmer, at its helm.

Since Vesey took over from Diana, Princess of Wales, as patron of Gloucestershire Cricket Club, members have been commenting on the commendable upturn in their team's fortunes. The 3rd baron has now taken it upon himself to offer up his country home Stowell Park to the club. Ground staff have been instructed to mow with additional care so that Stowell can become the home ground of Gloucestershire's 2nd XI.

Celebratory pinots of bitter are jolting up evenings at The Boot pub in Tisbury, Wiltshire, where London's Groucho Club and its louche members were planning to open a country branch. The club, whose regulars include an

irate Liam Gallagher and sundry drug-takers, has abandoned its plans after a feasibility study.

Out of line

TIME to put an end to a vicious rumour doing the rounds of the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club at Brancaster, within driving distance of Sandringham, where the Duke of Kent can be spotted on the 19th hole in his capacity as patron.

Talk on the links has it that the Duke of York wrote to the club suggesting that he would like to join; furthermore, he asked whether he might go to the top of the waiting list and skip paying the joining fee and annual subscription. "They wrote back thanking him but saying that he had been placed at the bottom of the waiting list and that he would have to pay a subscription," said one senior member.

The Royal West Norfolk is flabbergasted: "Prince Andrew is a member, paying a subscription like everybody else."

Rematch

SUSAN Webber Wright, the federal judge who has been assigned the case of Paula Jones v Bill Clinton in Arkansas, once enjoyed a memora-

ble encounter with the future President.

In 1974, Clinton was teaching a course at the University of Arkansas Law School, and Wright was one of his students. When it was time for the final grades, Clinton had to apologise to her: he had lost her exam papers. Would Wright take a "B" for the class and they could forget the matter? Wright refused, retook the exam and earned an "A".

Zhao sorry

ONE MAN missing from the handover celebrations in Hong Kong is a politician disgraced in China's eyes: the former party secretary Zhao Ziyang. He was the co-signatory with Baroness Thatcher of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration that set out the terms for Hong Kong's handover but, after sympathising with the Tiananmen Square protesters, he now lives under surveillance in Beijing.

Callers to Peter Lilley's campaign for the Tory leadership yesterday were given a mobile phone number to ring. Unfortunately, the phone concerned had been left in a taxi by Dicky Dukes, one of Lilley's sidekicks. When I called, it was answered by a brash American tourist



Fleming, left, and his spymaster, an inspiration for Bond

who had clearly received a number of similar calls, for he answered: "Peter Lilley's campaign HQ," before explaining that he had never heard of the man.

Golden buy

LONDON'S booksellers are so excited about a first edition James Bond that even Fleming's stocky oriental buddy Oddjob might have thrown his hat into the ring. The 1957 edition of *From Russia With Love* in the latest catalogue of Nigel Williams Rare Books is being offered for £7,000 — one of the most exorbitant prices for any of Flem-

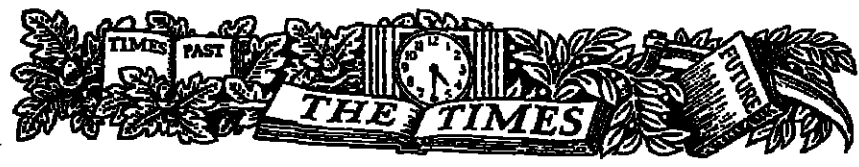


Fleming, left, and his spymaster, an inspiration for Bond

ing's sought-after first editions. The book is inscribed: "To Bill Once Again from Ian", and was given by Fleming to Sir William Stephenson, one of Britain's most senior spymasters in the Second World War, and a man who directly influenced the creation of the James Bond character.

Fleming underwent a crash course in espionage under Stephenson's tutelage and was particularly impressed with Stephenson's "Steinn M", a laboratory of espionage devices similar to those exhibited by "Q" in the books.

P.H.S



FRANCE TURNS LEFT

French voters step through history's looking-glass into the past

The most peculiar election campaign in the history of the Fifth Republic ended yesterday, but France's surly electorate had already rendered its damning verdict the week before. From the first round of voting, it was clear that President Chirac, who dissolved the National Assembly ten months ahead of time in order to give his Government a clear run into economic and monetary union, had obtained no such mandate. But the scale of the revolt astounded. What the French have voted against is not EMU as such, but the indispensable modernisation of France. Its lurch back to the Left is an extraordinary testament to the shortening cycle of French political life, to the volatility of its electorate, and to the fear of change.

The result is bad for Europe's battle to become globally competitive, and could be worse still for French democracy. If, as projections last night showed, Lionel Jospin has won a parliamentary majority even without Communist votes, France could yet join EMU if only to escape a meltdown of the franc. M Jospin's key adviser on Europe is expected to be Jacques Delors, and all the likely candidates for the Quai d'Orsay are convinced federalists. If EMU goes ahead with millions still on the dole, the ultimate victor of this election is likely to prove Jean-Marie Le Pen's xenophobic National Front.

For the next five years, France will be governed by a President whose authority is crippled, in cohabitation with a Government voted into office on the most nonsensical economic platform of the entire European continent, East or West. He has himself to blame. His myopic pursuit of a goal that has long distorted French policy obscured what ought to have been the main national debate. France would not today be poised to take a giant step into the past had M Chirac not led the Right's seemingly impenetrable parliamentary majority into battle on ground it should never have picked.

Euro or no euro, the most critical choice before France is between clinging to its overmighty, inefficient and insolvent public

sector, and the deregulation necessary to unleash individual talent. France has world-beaters among its leading private sector enterprises but, despite one big and several smaller political revolutions, the country has never cast off the Colbertian incubus of an all-powerful interventionist State. That is the battle of ideas which was fought and won 18 years ago in Britain. But, Tony Blair should note, almost no French politician of Right or Left has posed the question in these terms.

Disgust with all mainstream parties has been widening for nearly a decade. It is no use asking footsore troops to die in battle unless they believe in the cause. Once again, this national debate has been ducked; and because the Right contains some people who understand that free markets can and must be reconciled with social justice, it is more culpable than M Jospin and his coterie of stale welfare Socialists. The Left did not deserve to win these elections; the Right surely deserved to lose.

M Chirac narrowly beat M Jospin for the presidency two years ago by seeming to rekindle some of Gaullism's early radicalism. In power, he has been a hopeless trimmer. When he launched this campaign with the slogan of a "new élan" for France, it was with no fresh agenda. The Left, which has none either, has slid into the vacuum created by the Right.

This was an election about jobs. Unemployment stands at 12.8 per cent and perhaps higher — the unemployment statistics which would ordinarily have been published last Friday mysteriously failed to see the light of day. M Jospin has no remedies. His promise to renegotiate the terms of monetary union is an irrelevance and his plans to create jobs by shortening the working week, cap pay rises and pad the already bloated public sector payroll ought to have been treated by any educated electorate with contempt. France has voted for a shot of morphine. It is a measure of the nation's pain, but anaesthetic has never cured a patient yet.

BACK TO BACK TO BASICS

American experience suggests some tough choices for Blair

Thinking the unthinkable may be one thing, doing the undoable is another. Tony Blair apparently used the visit of Bill Clinton last week to compare notes on welfare reform. Labour's own proposals will be unveiled in the Prime Minister's speech today.

The Blair Government will place unemployed single parents at the heart of its strategy. That focus carries political risks but is more than justified by the facts. Britain has the largest number of single parents in Europe. Of these, two thirds are currently jobless despite a relatively buoyant economy. The economic cost to the social security budget exceeds £7 billion; but the broader costs both to the individuals concerned and the community as a whole are much greater. There cannot be even the beginnings of a cure to the "dependency culture" that Mr Blair will highlight today without a substantial shift in these numbers.

The Prime Minister appears intent on reintroducing the labour market to those 800,000 unemployed single parents whose children are in full-time education. To meet that proper objective, Labour would require single parents to attend interviews at job-centres where the options of work, further education or retraining would be discussed. By implication, refusal to participate in such sessions could lead to a reassessment of benefit entitlement. Mr Blair would tackle the question of childcare through a network of after-school homework clubs possibly funded from the National Lottery. The provision of opportunity, the Government hopes, will permit the large proportion of welfare recipients who would work if they could, to fulfil their ambitions.

These are worthwhile plans that deserve cross-party support. Labour has moved

many miles in its outlook on such issues. But the Government has chosen those parts of the American agenda that it finds most palatable. It has deliberately rejected other elements pioneered by state governments of late. These include a much stronger degree of compulsion over whether to seek work, re-education, or retraining with financial support contingent on that choice. The Bill accepted by President Clinton includes provisions on the withdrawal of all benefits to those who have received welfare payments for five years. Such ideas would "make eyes water" in this country.

The whole history, structure and character of the American welfare system is very different from our own. It has long been easy for politicians in the United States to score points with promises to "get tough" on single mothers. As John Major discovered during his ill-fated venture into this territory "back to basics" — attitudes in Britain are rather different. Nonetheless, Labour has to be prepared for the probability that its chosen approach — steering rather than pushing people back towards employment — will not prove enough on its own.

That is the point where the unthinkable has to be thought. It is difficult to envisage how policy could succeed without some element of compulsion and the threat that benefit would be curtailed. A modified version of American practice might then seem valid. Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, has clearly thought through this possibility. The Prime Minister would prefer to take the voluntary route first. That will strike most people as entirely reasonable. Like President Clinton, Mr Blair may yet find himself drawn towards much more radical solutions.

GREEN FIGURES

The British garden is the acceptable face of civil disorder

That evergreen and hardy perennial radio programme *Gardeners' Question Time* is celebrating its goldenrod jubilee. The rest of the world may be dominated by war, economics and politics. For once parts of the United Kingdom are winning on the playing fields. But, for the heart of England, there is also the recording of the 50th anniversary of its favourite radio programme.

Man (and indeed woman) is seldom more creatively employed than in the garden. For a garden is a thing of beauty and a job for ever. And because of its climate and the character of its gardeners, the United Kingdom is the centre of the world for gardening opinions, and even for some of its gardens. So gardeners turned up in thousands yesterday, with their ailing pot plants and testing questions to impress the listeners, for the recording of their programme in the National Forest near Swadlincote.

As with other institutions, not everything in *Gardeners' Question Time* is lovely. Its entire former panel was transplanted by corporate cutting and down-weeding from the BBC to Classic FM. Now these transplants on the classical music programme attract only a third of their Radio 4 audience and have lost their sponsor. Some of the ad-lib questions posed without warning would tax Adam or Ashmole. What plants are suitable for a nudist colony? The answer

should have been "nothing with prickles". How can the gardener stop frogs knocking over water-lilies? What plants are suitable for planting in a politically correct Islington window-box during a general election?

And the programme itself has changed since 1947. But it has evolved gradually like a well-established herbaceous border, in the English way, not by uprooting, design consultant and bulldozer. Fifty years ago plastic flowerpots, loam-free composts, grow-bags and imported plants were science fiction. There were few garden centres, merely greengrocers selling packets of seeds with optimistic pictures of the ideal flower. Fashions have changed in the gardening programme as well as the garden. For years, discussion was about the cocktail of chemicals needed to keep gardens free of pests and weeds. Now chemicals are restricted. So the vine weevil flourishes and its control has become the commonest question on the programme. And biological controls are the accessory of the future.

Few can aim at the perfection of the professionals. But millions want to try to do better than their neighbours. For many the English garden is something that dies if you don't water it and rots when you do. For the worst, even the artificial lawns on their patios die. But the garden and its tips are the native microcosm of the wider world.

Way forward for Labour on Ireland

From Sir David Goodall

Sir, John Lloyd ("Can Blair avoid another Drumcree?", May 30) is right to focus attention on the need to address Unionist as well as nationalist insecurity in Northern Ireland as the marching season looms — and also to set that need in the context of a wider, long-term strategy.

The vision of Ireland offered in the Downing Street declaration and the joint framework document — both of which new Labour has endorsed — is not political unification, but a unified civic and economic space on the island of Ireland, within which existing constitutional and political loyalties would be protected (ie, Northern Ireland would remain within the UK), "parity of esteem" for both communities would be entrenched, a variety of Ireland-wide institutions would be established and practical co-operation between the two parts of Ireland would gather momentum to a point at which national divisions and questions of sovereignty would begin to lose relevance.

For that vision to become a reality, both communities in Northern Ireland must be given reassurance — the nationalist community that they are not going to be submerged once again in a Unionist-dominated State and that their links with the Republic will be legitimised, and the Unionists that a compromise settlement will not prove to be a step down the slippery slope into a united Ireland.

An important part of this process will be to give political substance to the relationship between Britain and the island of Ireland as a whole, in accordance with the provision in the joint framework document that there should be a new Anglo-Irish agreement reflecting "the totality of relationships between the two islands". "Strand three" of the inter-party talks is supposed to address this aspect, but very little has so far been heard of it.

The historical, cultural, linguistic, economic and racial links between Britain and Ireland, taken with what Dr Garret Fitzgerald has called "an extent of direct human and family ties... unprecedented between two independent states", make it illusory for Britain and Ireland to regard one another as foreign countries. The links between them constitute a unique relationship, whose potential political significance has in recent years been played down or suppressed.

With the Republic's independence from Britain and national self-respect now well beyond challenge, and with new Governments taking office both in London and Dublin, it is high time to start looking seriously for ways of giving this unique relationship some form of institutional expression.

Yours etc,
DAVID GOODALL
Greystones, Ampleforth, York.
May 30.

Road use

From the General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs

Sir, Anjana Ahuja's article, "Drivers' love of danger money" (Mind and Matter, May 26), can be summed up in two words long relevant to economists but apparently alien to transport engineers: incentives matter.

Who could be surprised to discover that if drivers were made to pay for road use according to the time spent in journeys they would be more inclined to drive more dangerously? And who would fund such research other than a government agency?

This seems such an absurd "experiment" that one wonders if its sole purpose is to undermine any concept of using prices (as opposed to edicts, licences or congestion) to ration road space.

The academics in charge of the project apparently need guidance from market-orientated economists. Road space is a scarce resource which can most efficiently be allocated among competing users by charging for it. The method of charging matters but transport economists, rather than transport engineers, as in this case, have long been working on these matters. They have shown how pricing for access by time of day and type of vehicle can spread the use of road space.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BLUNDELL
General Director,
The Institute of Economic Affairs,
2 Lord North Street, SW1.
May 30.

From Mr Stephen Munslow

Sir, Anjana Ahuja writes of the necessity of limiting car use and prompting commuters to use public transport.

She makes the fundamental error of regarding the car and public transport as equivalent alternative modes of movement. However, motor advertisements do not promote cars for their facility in transferring people from A to B, but as symbols of independence, adulthood, sex, potency and power.

For young people the bus seems to me to symbolise failure, poverty, degradation and membership of the underclass. Until this is grasped, no inroads will be made into our chronic transport problems.

Yours sincerely,
S. MUNSLOW,
117 Midland Road,
Birmingham 30.
May 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Forebodings on Nato enlargement

From Mr Frank Allaun

Sir, "Russia and Nato bury the Cold War", proclaims your front page (May 28; see also leading article, same day).

The unhappy conclusion for many observers is exactly the opposite. The Cold War is now in danger of returning, with all that entails, as Nato forces extend nearer and nearer Russia's borders. That is the view of Professor George Kennan, Lord Healey, Mikhail Gorbachev and other statesmen whose experience gives them qualifications to speak. And there has been scarcely any discussion in the British Parliament.

Russia unilaterally withdrew all its tanks from Northern and Central Europe at the end of the 1980s. Nato declares it "has no intention" of deploying nuclear forces on the territory of the new Nato states, but it does not have to as nuclear bombs can be launched from air and sea bases. There is no guarantee that conventional weapons will not at some future date be deployed near the Russian frontiers. Russia will not be able to veto such movement.

There are opponents to the agreement, notably in the American Congress and in the Russian Duma — and perhaps soon in the new Nato countries when they discover the huge sums they have to pay to reconstruct their armed forces to fit in with those of Nato.

Nothing but good can come from Russia becoming a full member of the OECD, as your leading article says, but such membership should not be linked to the Nato agreement.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAUIN
(Labour MP for East Salford, 1955-83),
11 Eastleigh Road, Manchester.
May 28.

Sierra Leone coup

From Dr Kamal Hossain and Mr Richard Bourne

Sir, Chief Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, is right to describe the recent coup in Sierra Leone as unacceptable (report, May 26; see also leading article, May 29). Commonwealth and other observers had applauded the elections then in February 1996. The Harare declaration of 1991, followed by the tightening of the rules at Millbrook in New Zealand, make clear that regimes of force have no place in the Commonwealth.

The meeting in July of the Commonwealth ministerial action group is the first at which Britain will be represented by a Labour Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. The group must recommend to the Commonwealth Heads of Government, meeting in Edinburgh in October, that they suspend the military regime, while doing everything possible to

From Professor Emeritus Robin Kemball

Sir, Your forebodings on Nato enlargement (leading article, May 15) are the more surprising for the absence of any suggested viable alternative. If, as I assume, this implies preserving the present status quo, what was our Cold War crusade for an undivided Europe all about? To deny the former Soviet satellites the security we claim for ourselves, and which they understandably crave, is to consign them to a power vacuum and probably expose them yet again to any resurgent military, political and economic clout of their great Slav neighbour.

At a time when Western statesmen are falling over one another to assuage what they consider to be "legitimate Russian fears", should we not spare a thought for the no less legitimate, and objectively more urgent, fears of those countries but recently liberated from Soviet tyranny?

As for your proviso that Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic "must be told... that... they must be especially active in building bridges to Moscow", it ill behoves this country, with our sorry history in defence of their rights, to lecture them in such terms.

By their history and their geography, these peoples — the Poles in particular — are in my view infinitely better equipped to deal with the Russian mind than most Western pundits and, once granted reasonable security, are perfectly capable of conducting their own foreign policies.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
ROBIN KEMBALL
Chemin de la Coudrette 3,
CH-1012 Lausanne, Switzerland.
May 30.

assist the people of Sierra Leone to regain their rights.

The Commonwealth must learn that elections alone are insufficient to consolidate a plural democratic state especially where, as in Sierra Leone, it is a guarantor of a peace agreement after a civil war. It is ironic that the Nigerian dictator, General Abacha, has issued an ultimatum to Sierra Leone's military rulers to restore democracy. West African history might have been quite different if General Abacha had respected the results of Nigeria's June 1993 presidential elections.

Yours sincerely,
KAMAL HOSSAIN
(Chair, Advisory Commission),
RICHARD BOURNE
(Chair, Trustee Committee),
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative,
Trustee Committee,
c/o 28 Russell Square, WCI.
May 29.

From Dr R. H. Wheeler

Sir, In the Kelly abortion case you report (May 24) Anne Smith, QC, as arguing that the foetus's rights as a human being become active only at birth. Here Mrs Smith states the law but you go on to quote her:

A foetus is an intrinsic part of the body of a pregnant woman. It is as much a part of her body as the placenta or umbilical cord. She is not merely a convenient container.

This is false biologically. The foetus, together with its cord and placenta, is a unity growing from a genetically separate fertilised ovum which has been implanted for development in the mother's uterus. Neither the foetus nor its membranes is an intrinsic part of the mother.

Furthermore, nobody holding the biological truth is constrained to see motherhood in terms of "merely a convenient container".

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD WHEELER,
Kingsclere, 14 Beacon Road,
Ditchling, Hassocks, West Sussex.

Abortion case

From Dr Maeve White

Sir, Nigella Lawson ("A case that has forced us to face the ugly reality", May 28) concludes her thought-provoking commentary on abortion by posing the question: should "we" (society) make a mother bear the responsibility of carrying a child to term against her wishes? I say, "Yes, absolutely".

Society has the right to expect and encourage adults to behave responsibly. Responsibility means accepting the consequences of one's own actions. It is not responsible to expect others to terminate the pregnancy.

The time for a woman to decide if she wishes to be a mother is before a pregnancy, not during it, by which time she is already a "mother", the word used by Ms Lawson.

Yours truly,
MAEVE WHITE,
32 Burnbury Road,
Balham, SW12.
May 28.

Hunting risks

From Mr John Spencer

Sir, Libby Purves's intervention on foxhunting (May 20; letters, May 24) is as admirable as it is unexpected. One point she fails to make is that on some days human casualties can exceed animal.

At the opening meet of the East Sussex some years ago I remember one former colonial governor being killed in a season that saw off three members of the hunt out of 70 subscribers.

The risks aren't all to the fox. Are we now to be prevented from living dangerously?

Yours etc,
JOHN SPENCER,
24 John Islip Street, SW1.
May 26.

Very new Labour

From Mr Jamie Keir

Sir, Congratulations to Ruth Kelly on the new arrival (report and photograph, May 28). This is the first time I've seen an MP kissing a baby after the election campaign has ended.

Yours faithfully,
JAMIE KEIR,
24 Bay Street, Fairlie, Strathclyde.
May 28.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Plea for windfalls to help disabled

From Mr Richard Jarman

Sir, Would it not be a positive move for the Halifax to act in the spirit of the new Building Societies (Distributions) Act, passed before the last election, and use some of the money from the Halifax's £1.4 billion unclaimed shares (report, Business, May 28) to benefit disabled customers who are named second on a joint account with a first-named carer?

Windfall shares arising from mergers or conversions often go to the carers alone. In this case many severely disabled people who rely on their carers to manage their personal finances have been deprived of their windfalls by the Halifax.

I worked closely with the former MP, Douglas French, who steered the Distributions Bill through Parliament. In March the Northern Rock Building Society promised to put the cash equivalent of shares also arising from a windfall into a charitable foundation, which would then make a suitable donation to charities for disabled people and their carers.

What is stopping the Halifax from doing something similar?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD JARMAN
(Parliamentary Officer),
Sense (The National Deafblind and Rubella Association),
11-13 Clifton Terrace,
Finsbury Park, N4.
May 30.

Borrowed wisdom

From Lady Devlin

Sir, Before another time-honoured political dictum goes down in history, please can I make sure that it is ascribed to the right politician?

At the end of his political sketch on the new system of Prime Minister's Questions (May 22), Matthew Parris recalls Harold Macmillan once saying: "Events, dear boy, events." He may well, however, have borrowed this quotation from an earlier Prime Minister.

My late husband tells an amusing story in his autobiography, *Taken at the Flood* (Tavener Publications, 1996), of having to make polite conversation to Winston Churchill when he sat next to him at a Cambridge University Union dinner in 1924.

He was advised that Winston would usually wax eloquent on the subject of his father. So my husband asked him how he thought Lord Randolph's fall had come about.

He [Winston] raised his fork slowly and held it in the air pondering. Then he said, "Events." He paused. He raised the fork higher and, lifting his voice as if in response to a conductor's baton, he said again "Events." Then he replaced the fork and upon a note of finality said, "Events."

Yours faithfully,
MADEIRAINE DEVLIN,
West Wick House,
Pewsey, Wiltshire.
May 26.

Amis at Hay-on-Wye

From Mr John Fuller

Sir, Readers of the *Times* Diary today really ought to be told that the Martin Amis story read by the author at the Hay-on-Wye Festival at the weekend was very far from being "quite awful".

The story used the child's voice to investigate a child's growing awareness of death. The deliberate strangeness of Amis's Anglo-American narrative seemed to me to be a textual device that lent an immense tenderness and humour to the story.

The marquee was packed, and the audience was, in my judgment, moved.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FULLER,
Magdalen College, Oxford.
May 27.

Technical assistance

From Mr Berry Wilson

Sir, There has been condemnation of the use of electronic spelling aids to complete crossword puzzles (letters, May 16, 22, 28).

I am slightly dyslexic with an IQ of over 140. As part of my self-help to battle this I try to finish a crossword a day. I can often complete the grid in my head, but without the use of a spell-checker I often cannot complete it in ink.

For me and many thousands of dyslexia sufferers, the electronic spell-checker is a godsend.

Yours faithfully,
BERRY WILSON,
Hillside View,
Ellesmere Road,
Ashington, Rochford, Essex.
May 28.

From Dr J. G. Denholm

Sir, In his letter of May 22, Mr John Grant likens using an electronic gadget for solving crosswords to taking a taxi for the return journey from jogging.

At my age when I go "jogging" I have transport both ways and I use an electronic gadget for solving crosswords all the time.

Yours in happy senility,
JIM DENHOLM,
Gimsons,
Kings Chase, Witham, Essex.
May 24.

OBITUARIES

NIKOLAI TIKHONOV

Nikolai Tikhonov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister) of the Soviet Union, 1980-85, died yesterday aged 92. He was born on May 14, 1905.

The role of Nikolai Tikhonov within the Soviet leadership was always subordinate to that of the party leader, and his promotion to the headship of the Soviet Government owed much to his long-standing friendship with Leonid Brezhnev. Given the close Brezhnev connection and his advanced age, it was not expected that he would retain his high post for long after Andropov had established himself in power. That he held it for five years may be attributed both to Andropov's premature demise and to the fact that he was as much a technocrat as a politician.

Nikolai Aleksandrovich Tikhonov was born into a middle-class Ukrainian family in the city of Kharkov. He attended a technical school in Dnepropetrovsk which specialised in the railway industry and, on leaving in 1924 his first job was as an assistant train driver. After this he became a technician in a mine and in 1930, following further study, qualified as a metallurgical engineer from the Dnepropetrovsk Metallurgical Institute. Between 1930 and 1947 Tikhonov served in a variety of industrial posts in the Ukraine

as a technical engineer, mine supervisor and subsequently chief engineer in various plants.

Though it was during the 1930s that he made the acquaintance of Leonid Brezhnev, Tikhonov himself joined the Communist Party surprisingly late for someone who was eventually to reach Politburo rank, becoming a member only in 1940 when he was aged 35. Between 1947 and 1950 Tikhonov was a factory manager in the Dnepropetrovsk area of which Brezhnev at that time was regional party secretary.

When Tikhonov moved from industry to politics, it was to governmental rather than party administration. In 1950 he joined the staff of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and by 1955 he was a Deputy Minister. With the abolition of most of the industrial ministries by Khrushchev in 1957, Tikhonov found himself back in his native Ukraine as chairman of the Dnepropetrovsk regional economic council.

He remained in that post for three years, but from 1960 onwards his career proceeded exclusively in Moscow, as he gradually made his way to the top of the ministerial hierarchy. From 1960 until 1963 he was deputy chairman of the State Scientific and Economic Council and from 1963-65 deputy chairman of Gosplan (the state planning committee). In 1965 he

became a deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and from 1976 was First Deputy Chairman to Aleksei Kosygin. It is highly probable that Tikhonov owed the first of these promotions to Brezhnev's desire to have someone with close connections to himself as a counterweight to Kosygin within the Council of Ministers, and the second to Brezhnev's wish that Tikhonov should succeed to Kosygin's post. When Kosygin resigned because of ill-health in October 1980 (just two months before his death), Tikhonov was duly appointed his successor, even though he was then already 75 years of age.

Tikhonov's membership of the "Brezhnev group" had brought him party as well as ministerial promotion. In 1961, when Khrushchev was still party leader but Brezhnev was already an influential Secretary of the Central Committee and Politburo member, Tikhonov became a candidate member of the Central Committee and in 1966, by which time Brezhnev had succeeded Khrushchev, a full member. It was not, however, until the late 1970s that Brezhnev succeeded in elevating Tikhonov to the highest ranks of the party leadership. Tikhonov was into his eighth decade by the time he became in 1978 a candidate (non-voting) member and in 1979 a full member of the Politburo. Tikhonov's style was low-key and

unflamboyant. His responsibilities for the economy led him to take a special interest in the experience of, and technical co-operation with, both East and West Germany. He travelled to the GDR more than twenty times and to the Federal German Republic on at least four occasions. He had seen more of the West than had a majority of his Politburo colleagues, having twice visited the United States as well as Austria, Canada, Finland, Greece, Italy and Switzerland.

During Chernomol's 13 months as Soviet leader, Tikhonov, though the older man, enjoyed better health and undertook some of the burden of high-level diplomacy which would normally have fallen to the General Secretary. In protocol terms, he was the number two person within the system, though the political reality was different, as Mikhail Gorbachev's election as General Secretary when Chernomol died was to illustrate.

Since Tikhonov's post as Chairman of the Council of Ministers carried with it heavy responsibilities for the running of the economy, it was not to be expected that Gorbachev, with his interest in the reorganisation and invigoration of the Soviet economy, would wish to leave such an important job in the hands of someone of Tikhonov's advanced years. Accordingly, he was retired, for "health reasons", in September 1985.



ERIC BARTON

Eric Barton, bookseller, died at Putney on May 21 aged 88. He was born on May 7, 1909.

THE bookdealing world lost a notable character, and Richmond, Surrey, a stimulating port of call for residents and visitors, when Eric Barton was obliged to give up his Balduz Bookshop in 1993. He established the shop in Hill Rise, Richmond, in 1936 and after the Second World War it became so significant a centre for both the town and the book world that when the lease expired in 1978, a vigorous local campaign was launched, persuading the owners to renew it for a further 15 years. This allowed Barton to continue presiding in inimitable style over one of the most individual, maddening, but rewarding second-hand bookshops in the London area.

Regulars knew how to respond when they opened the

slightly-stuck and battered glass door, sending the ancient bell jangling, and sparking the owner into abrasive reflex action. "What are you looking for?" or on more direct days, "What do you want?" would greet the newcomer — an response likely to stop the unwary in his or her tracks.

An inquiry about a particular category of book could bring the exasperated comment, "Oh God — we don't sell things like that." And if the insistent book-hunter showed signs of staying, the next declaration would probably be "We're just closing." If it rained during trading hours, Barton, wearing a raincoat of Columbus style, would hover immediately inside the locked door, waving off soaked and desperate customers, and mousing the explanation that he would open — when the rain stopped. His normal post was on a cushioned chair behind an ancient cash register and a complex of battered reference books, backed by a stern sign: "Public Not Beyond This Point."

But for the determined, the rewards could be rich, because Balduz was packed with a marvelous array of antiquarian and second-hand books, plus posters, letters, postcards, photographs, magazines, newspapers and a range of memorabilia. And, regular customers, once initiated into the Barton style, and accepted by him as buyers with bona fide interests, would find the proprietor thoroughly genial and splendid company.

He would offer anecdotes and gossip about a variety of topics and intimate worlds, from theatre to sport — and

allow the favoured to proceed behind the sign and study the more specialised material in the little room at the back. Barton would mention endless famous personalities, not in any sense of name-dropping, but simply because his relationship with them was genuine and germane to the debate in hand, and he had a vast store of information to tease, entertain or inform.

The son of a solicitor (who died when the boy was six), and a headmistress, Eric William Wild Barton was born at Kew, and lived in the area all his life. He went to school locally and then to Battersea Grammar School before attending University College London. At 18 he joined a small publishing house, soon moved to another, and in later life would explain drily that "wherever I went, I was automatically sacked after a few months — for complete lack of interest."

He tried bookselling with two partners in Crouch End in 1932-33, but the Depression was the wrong time for a shoestring enterprise. With only a few pounds left, he and one partner moved to Richmond Hill, but his colleague was a musicologist who worked during the night, slept in daylight hours, and would turn up only at closing time. After a few weeks he walked out, leaving Barton on his own.

Army call-up was deferred until 1941 for the owner of a one-man business; Barton then joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (being disqualified from combat duty when the premature discharge of a rifle perforated an ear drum), and served in

Normandy, Holland and Germany.

Demobbed in 1946, he found himself, on returning to the shop, somehow acquiring 2,000 postcards, and to his surprise discovered a growing interest in this field. Theatrical and military cards especially became highly collectible, with the Balduz Bookshop paving the way to the point that Eric Barton is credited with single-handedly reviving a craze which had died out with the First World War. With non-collectors happy to dispose of postcard albums, supplies poured in, Barton declaring he held a stock of a million cards by the early 1950s.

Collectors who made the trek to Hill Rise ranged from the writer Caryl Brahms and, later, the television presenter Lucinda Lambton, to the comedian Ronnie Barker — an enthusiast for saucy Edwardian cards. Others who shopped for years by post included the cricket commentator John Arlott, who took advantage of the specialist collection of cricketiana always on offer. Other customers who built a valued relationship with Barton the character and his endless resources included T. S. Eliot, Sir Compton Mackenzie, and Bernard Levin.

Eric Barton had a wide-ranging interest in literature and literary figures, including Dylan Thomas. In 1977 he led a nationwide campaign to buy the Thomas boatshouse at Laugharne, to preserve it as a memorial.

The most successful Barton crusade was to have Oscar Wilde's centenary commemorated in 1954, primarily by having an LCC plaque erected

at No 16 (now 64) Tite Street, Chelsea, Wilde's home from his marriage in 1884 until his arrest in 1895. This began with an appeal to *The Times*: as Wilde's homosexuality was still generally regarded with great distaste, Barton had his wife sign the letter as a subtle means of evoking sympathy.

In later years Barton was persuaded to thin out the stock, somewhat to the regret of regulars discovering they could now walk freely among the books and extract volumes without risk of bringing a stack toppling to the floor — but also losing the thrill of the treasure-hunt, never knowing what might be revealed.

Barton took a special interest in the life of particular areas of London, most notably Richmond, as a committee member of the Richmond Society. He was fierce in protection of its amenities, especially if he saw them as under threat by development.

An MCC member for many years, he was regularly to be found in his favourite corner seat in front of the Lord's Pavilion — and on reaching his 88th birthday, he solemnly informed club officials he was actually 90, at which age a guest reception is traditionally laid on for the guest of honour. Sadly he was too ill to benefit from his initiative.

In 1948 Eric Barton married Irina Rowlands-Wilbeach, a resilient and vivacious personality who was to present for many the friendly face of Balduz, customers of nervous disposition being known to spy out the land and visit the shop only when she was in charge. She and her two sons survive Barton; a daughter, Lisa, predeceased him.

ALFRED HERSHEY

Alfred Hershey, biochemist, died on May 22 aged 88. He was born on December 4, 1908.

A SCIENTIST whose work lay at the threshold of molecular genetics, Alfred Hershey was awarded a Nobel Prize for his study of the genetic structure of viruses.

A virus is a submicroscopic entity capable of reproducing itself only by invading — and usually by destroying — living cells. They are responsible for some of the most important medical conditions affecting man from AIDS to polio, from flu to yellow fever.

Virtually nothing was known about these organisms when Hershey began his investigations in 1940. Working jointly with the fellow American scientists, Max Delbrück and Salvador Luria, he conducted experiments on

bacteriophages (viruses that prey on bacteria) to elucidate many of the principles of viral action, earning himself and his two colleagues the nickname "The Phages".

Bacteriophages (phages) have, like all viruses, a core of DNA inside a protein shell. When this virus invades a bacterial cell it forces it to relinquish its usual functions and produce phages instead. What Hershey showed, in 1952, was that when it invades, the phage loses its protein shell. It was DNA alone which changed the host cell's genetic make-up.

This was a ground-breaking discovery which tied in with the research being carried out at that time by James Watson and Francis Crick, who were shortly to present their double-helix model of DNA. It was also of great relevance to health and medicine. Further



research was soon to reveal that phages carried genetic information that could create bacterial drug resistance and could be transmitted from one bacterium to another. This became central to concerns about failure of drugs and about disease control.

Alfred Day Hershey read biology at Michigan University and went on, in 1934, to

take a PhD in microbiology. He taught for some years at the University of Washington, St Louis.

In the early 1940s Hershey began discussing phage research with Delbrück and Luria, and by the end of the decade he and others were able to provide a genetic description of the phage chromosome.

In 1962 Hershey was appointed director of the genetic research unit at the Cold Spring Harbour laboratory where he had carried out much of his earlier work. He retired in 1974.

During his research career he received many awards, including the Albert Lasker Award and the Kimmer Genetics Award of the American National Academy of Sciences. In 1969 he and Delbrück and Luria received the Nobel Prize.

performance when hearing and not seeing, say, Mr. John Coates, he will certainly miss a great deal of it in hearing and not seeing, say, Mr. Leslie Henson. Broadcasting, having already created a wholly new vocation, will probably bring into being a new genus of comedians. It is to be hoped that the event will not long be deferred, for it is on the lighter side that the broadcast entertainment appears at present to require most strengthening.

DEBATE BETWEEN MR. SHAW AND MR. BELLOC

Mr. George Bernard Shaw and Mr. Hilaire Belloc will take part in a debate on "What is Coming" at the Savoy Theatre on June 9. Mr. J. C. Squire will preside. The debate, which will be broadcast, has been organized by the London School of Economics.

Experiments are now in hand in connexion with broadcasting the "Flying Scotsman" on June 30. Investigations are being made to ascertain where it would be possible, by means of a portable transmitter, in transit from the footplate of the engine, but the whole proceeding is subject to permission being obtained from the Postmaster-General.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, Clarendon Place, London W2 2UL on 13th June 1997 at 12.30 p.m. for the purpose provided in Section 98 of the Act. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning liquidation, however the meeting may be called upon to approve the terms of a proposed arrangement of affairs and to endorse the statement of affairs and to endorse the proposed arrangement of affairs. A list of the names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, Clarendon Place, London W2 2UL, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the meeting of Creditors. DATED THIS 27th May 1997.
J. F. Fawcett, Director.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

4% of the electorate vote supporting Greenpeace. Thanks to: John, Barbara, Wendy (much appreciated).

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

TIME TO DELIVERGough leads
England's attack
in the first Test
at Edgbaston
PAGE 29**ANYONE FOR CROQUET?**An old favourite
makes a comeback
PAGE 39**FROM CATT TO LION**England win and
lose in Argentina
PAGE 31**PARIS MATCH**Steffi Graf made to fight
in French Open PAGE 33

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JUNE 2 1997

SHEARER AND SHERINGHAM GOALKEEPERS IN THE FOOTBALL WORLD CUP



Sheringham, who scored England's second goal in the closing seconds of the match in Katowice, celebrates the 2-0 victory over Poland which put England back on track for the World Cup finals. Photographs: Neal Simpson

Hoddle maps Roman road

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE plane carrying the celebrating England team home was still on the ground at Katowice airport in the early hours of yesterday morning when a familiar voice crackled over the intercom. "We are about to take off," Paul Gascoigne said. "Fasten your seat belts and sail on England. Take care."

England's spirits were already soaring by then anyway, hurtling towards orbit after bravura performances from Alan Shearer, whose strength, pace and guile overwhelmed the Poles in the first half. Paul Ince and Gareth Southgate in particular had inspired them to become the first England team for 31 years to win on Polish soil.

Their 2-0 win over Poland in the tribal atmosphere of the Slaski Stadium on Saturday night, courtesy of two more goals from Shearer and Teddy Sheringham, brought to an end more than three months of self-doubt inflicted by the

home defeat to Italy in February. Suddenly the optimism that was rife during Euro 96 is with us again.

England will probably still have to beat Moldova at Wembley on September 10 and Italy in Rome a month later to qualify at the top of group two. But they are now comfortably clear of Belgium in the race for the leading runners-up position, that would also guarantee them qualification for the World Cup finals in France next year.

Yesterday morning, when the plane landed back at Luton Airport, Hoddle and his players were already talking up a scenario in which Italy might fail to secure a win in Georgia in the autumn, leaving England needing only a draw in the Eternal City in October to qualify outright.

What is clear, though, amid all the permutations, is that the return match in Rome's Olympic Stadium will be a mighty showdown. It is not, though, a match that Hoddle fears. "As long as we stay professional against

Moldova," Hoddle said, "it is going to be a titanic battle in Rome. That was what was so pleasing about our performance here because the closer you get to that ultimate game a little bit of tension can start to creep in."

"I have had a gut feeling for a long time that it would go to Rome and I think Italy will find themselves facing a very different England to the one they beat at Wembley. We have had three away wins in

this qualifying campaign and that is something that has to make our younger players grow up."

"You have to remember that, for the two years before I took over, they were playing friendlies at Wembley, nothing that would prepare them for the sort of pressure here tonight. "We will not fear going across there needing to get a result. It is a game that all the players in this team would relish."

England have now scored seven goals in their three qualifying games abroad without conceding one and Hoddle said that they had been working on perfecting the swiftest of counter-attacking techniques in training with drills where the team had to score within ten seconds of winning the ball.

That perfection of the best methods of containment and counter-attack and the 3-5-2 system that Hoddle favours and works so well away from home will help England's cause immeasurably in Rome especially if Italy have suffered a setback in Georgia.

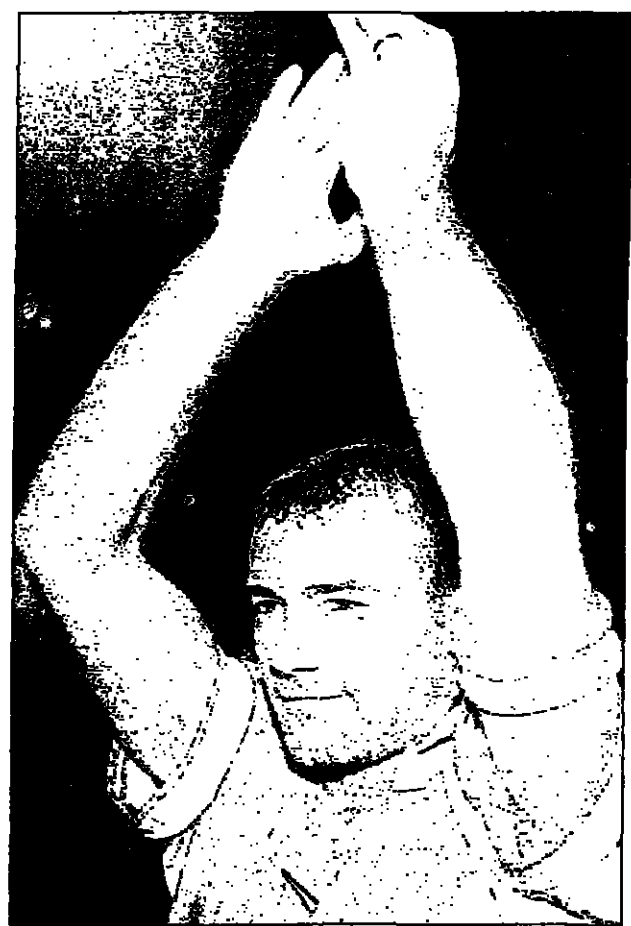
More than that, though, England's confidence seems at last to be growing with every game, aided by familiarity with each other and with the methods of Hoddle. The nagging scepticism about the coach's talents is being swept away.

In that light, it was symbolic that Southgate, aided by the fierce determination of Gary Neville and the growing poise of Sol Campbell, should pro-

duce his best performance on Saturday since his appearance against Germany in the Euro 96 semi-final.

"Personally, I think I have been desperate to try to do everything I can to redeem myself," Southgate said, "but there is really no way you can do that. It is past. I do not think you can ever really lay that ghost but it was impor-

Back to the future.....21
Poles caught cold.....21
Scotland win.....21



Shearer, scorer of the first goal, applauds supporters

ENGLAND'S ROUTE TO FRANCE 1998

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Italy | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 15 |
| England | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 15 |
| Poland | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Georgia | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Moldova | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 0 |

RESULTS: Moldova 0 England 3; Moldova 1 Italy 3; England 2 Poland 1; Italy 1 Georgia 0; Georgia 0 England 2; Poland 2 Moldova 1; England 0 Italy 1; Italy 3 Moldova 0; Poland 0 Italy 0; Italy 3 Poland 0; England 2 Georgia 0; Poland 0 England 2.

MATCHES TO COME: June 7: Georgia v Moldova; June 14: Poland v Georgia; Sept 10: England v Moldova; Georgia v Italy; Sept 24: Moldova v Georgia; Oct 7: Moldova v Poland; Oct 11: Italy v England; Georgia v Poland.

RUNNERS-UP

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 England [2] | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 12 |
| 2 Belgium [7] | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 3 Greece [1] | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| 4 Yugoslavia [6] | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| 5 Austria [4] | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| 6 Switzerland [3] | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 Russia [5] | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 Germany [0] | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 9 Ireland [0] | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |

Figures in brackets are qualifying group

Records based on results against first, third and fourth-placed teams in respective groups

Yugoslavia are above Austria by virtue of having scored more away goals

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From A to Zinc

Scott suffers during rough channel crossing

Lesson one is easy: if Channel 5 ever throws another party in a television studio, the presenter and guests must be placed in a separate, sound-proof booth. Soap opera stars and page-three girls, like small children, should be seen but not heard — not while there's World Cup football on, anyway.

Lesson two is pretty straightforward, too. If live sport is to be an irregular event in the schedule, as it seems destined to be on Channel 5, by all means make your presentation style conspicuously different, but for goodness sake have the courage of your convictions. Embrace a laddish mix of betting, birds and booze, but do not ask the middle-aged and polite Brough Scott to be your anchorman. It is difficult to imagine that his broadcasting

career will ever contain a more uncomfortable seven hours.

He was at his best at the beginning, when he confidently promised "a unique programme of sport". Not wrong, was he? As a bewildering array of reporters flashed before us (one or two of whom, I'm sure, we never saw again), the slightly annoying Adam Darke, in Katowice, tried a bit of cod-Polish. "Smart-arse," Scott responded dismissively, speaking for us all for perhaps the only time all evening.

That, however, was the high point, with the hugely experienced Scott getting inexplicably worse as the evening went on. By half-time he had the haunted look of a man who had forgotten to write his Autocue script. By the time the rugby came on he was virtually incoherent. "From all of us here..." he began as yet



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

another commercial break loomed. "... stay with us in a couple of minutes' time." It's not often I feel sorry for a professional broadcaster, but this was one such occasion.

Lesson three, however, is to look at what worked, which was quite a lot. Alex Rudzinski, the director, was impressively on top of his technology. Getting reporters in Katowice talking to presenters in Southampton is far harder than it appears and Rudzinski managed it without a single finger in the ear or

"say that again". Apart from a surreal quarter-second, when an empty ice rink appeared on our screens, and the satellite failure which cut off Glenn Hoddle in his post-match prime, it was an impressively hiccup-free performance. The pictures provided by Polish television were unexpectedly good, too.

Jonathan Pearce also made a reasonable debut as a television commentator. True, he talked far too much and was partisan to a degree that would have caused apoplexy

at the BBC, but, with one or two forgivable exceptions, he steered clear of the theatrical set-pieces that have made him such a cult figure on commercial radio. Alongside him, Phil Thompson, the former Liverpool defender, struggled to get a meaningful word in.

Back in the studio, the man coping best with the distractions of deafening background noise, uncooperative replays and a host who had lost all track of what passed as a coherent question, was Joe Royle. Nobody seemed to have told him where the replay monitor was, but when the satellite link finally went down it was Royle, rather than Scott, who extemporised with most authority.

The rugby, when it finally arrived, was almost a farce. Billed as having commentary by Chris Rea, Scott nervously

handed over to somebody called Chris Maune. A caption confused the picture further by telling us that commentary was being provided by Andy Copastagno. It didn't much matter — whoever it was using a Buenos Aires telephone box as a commentary position was virtually indecipherable.

Given that the whole match was recorded and the final score was already on Ceefax at kick-off, the apologies flashed up at regular intervals seemed totally inadequate. There was worse to come. After 12 minutes of the first half, Scott suddenly appeared again — not to grovel about the sound, but to chew the fat with Nigel Melville, Jeff Probyn and Victor Ubogu and to take another commercial break. The pattern was repeated in the second half. Live on Five? I don't think so.

Doochan widens the gap over Criville

MICHAEL DOOHAN, the three-times world champion, recorded his 38th World Motorcycling Championship victory at the Austrian Grand Prix in Zellweg yesterday to take second place in the all-time list of 500cc winners. Only Giacomo Agostini, of Italy, is ahead of the Australian Honda rider, with 68 wins. "To have achieved 38 wins is fantastic but records are not important," Doochan, 31, said.

Doochan's fourth victory of the season extended his lead in the standings over Spanish team-mate Alex Criville to 31 points. Doochan is seeking to become only the third rider, after Agostini and Britain's Mike Hailwood, to win four successive titles. Criville finished a disappointing fifth yesterday. Tadayuki Okada of Japan, riding a Honda, was second, and Luca Cadalora, of Italy, on a Yamaha, third.

Baronti sprints away

CYCLING: Alessandro Baronti emerged from a tight, three-man sprint yesterday to claim the fifteenth stage of the Giro d'Italia, while Ivan Gotti retained the leader's pink jersey he had earned the day before. Baronti, of Italy, a member of the Panaria team, used a final burst of speed in the last 50 metres to overtake his countrymen, Filippo Casagrande and Paolo Savoldelli.

Baronti completed the 173 kilometres (107.3 miles) from Verres to Borgomanero in 4hr 29min 23sec. Gotti, trying to become the first Italian in six years to win the Giro, and Pavel Tonkov, his chief rival, finished about one minute behind. Gotti maintained his 51-second overall lead over the Russian, the 1996 champion, with seven stages left.

Woosnam the master

GOLF: Ian Woosnam, right, of Wales, claimed his second title in a week by defeating Sandy Lyle, of Scotland, in a two-hole sudden-death playoff in the Hyundai Motor Masters in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday. Both players made pars at the first hole and, at the second, they each hit approach shots to within 15 feet of the pin. However, only Woosnam sank his putt.



Monarchs undermined

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The slim hopes of London Monarchs reaching the World Bowl collapsed at Stamford Bridge yesterday, when poor kicking and a lack of offence led to a 13-9 defeat by Amsterdam Admirals. Scottish Claymores beat Frankfurt Galaxy 24-7 at Murrayfield, thanks to two touchdowns from Siran Stacey, to keep alive their hopes of retaining the title.

Toulouse just too good

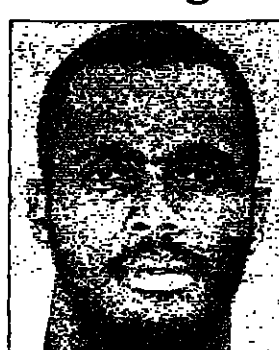
RUGBY UNION: Christophe Deylaud, the former France stand-off half, kicked all Toulouse's points on Saturday as they lifted their fourth successive French title by beating Bourgoin 12-6. Deylaud kicked three penalties and a dropped goal. The result was a disappointment for Bourgoin captain Marc Cecillon, 38, capped 46 times, who had hoped to crown his career with the championship.

Tibbs topples Hobday

BOWLS: Martin Tibbs, Somerset's two-wood singles champion, defeated former world triples champion Jim Hobday in the semi-final of the City of Bath Open tournament yesterday, and then won the £500 prize by defeating Derek Southcombe 21-15 in the final. Jan Stern, of Amersham, retained the women's singles title, beating Nancy Davidson, of Ayre Rankinston, 21-16 in the final.

Walsh stays in charge

CRICKET: Ignoring calls to appoint Brian Lara as captain, the West Indies Cricket Board has retained Courtney Walsh, right, as West Indies captain for Sri Lanka's forthcoming Caribbean tour. Walsh, 34, who took over as captain from Richie Richardson after the World Cup last year, will lead West Indies in the two Tests and a limited-overs international.



Loram roars to victory

SPEEDWAY: Mark Loram won his first British championship at Coventry yesterday after a dramatic showdown with his childhood friend, Chris Louis. Loram and Louis, who both live in Ipswich, scored 14 points and went into a deciding run-off. Loram almost crashed on the first lap but recovered to storm past Louis at the start of the second lap. Louis regained the lead only for Loram to overtake again.

Joyful double for Hoy

EQUESTRIANISM: Andrew Hoy, riding Warden Park, landed a successful double at the Longleat Horse Trials near Frome yesterday, winning the BEIB Open Intermediate Series final and clinching the special Accumulator. Sarah Bullen and Rock King finished second in the Accumulator on the same score, but had a slower cross country. Anna Herman and Balsam took third place.

ATHLETICS

Mackie quick to impress despite missing record

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the athletics world focused its attention on American sprinters and African middle-distance runners over the weekend, British athletes went about their business quietly, but effectively. They competed not as they will at the European Cup three weeks hence, as one committed army, but as fragmented units, their fighting strength looking none the weaker for being splintered.

While the European Cup captains led by example, Linford Christie winning a 100 metres race in Hengelo, a Holland, and Sally Gunnell a 400 metres hurdles in Bedford, there was a good deal more from which to draw encouragement.

Steve Backley and Jonathan Edwards made winning starts to the season in Riga, Latvia; Jon Brown, in Hengelo, leapfrogged David Bedford and Brendan Foster to record the second fastest 10,000 metres by a Briton, and Ian Mackie ran a 150 metres in Cardiff that would not have been sniffed at by those in Toronto last night for the Michael Johnson-Donovan Bailey match over that distance.

Mackie recorded 14.99sec and, if spectators were disappointed that Frankie Fredericks did not keep his date to run, the young Scot had greater reason to feel regret. Mackie, whose victory over Christie in Sheffield last August strengthened Britain's faith that it possesses a rising 100 metres talent, would be celebrating a landmark had Fredericks been there.

Unchallenged, Mackie eased up towards the finish, a

luxury he would have denied himself had the Namibian been in close proximity. Mackie's early removal of his foot from the accelerator cost him the British best mark, held by Christie.

Christie, in the first of two victories over Bailey at 150 metres, recorded 14.97sec in Sheffield three years ago. "If I had known how close I was to the record I would not have stepped off the gas," Mackie said. "It is a bad habit which I have got to stop."

Mackie, 22, from Dunfermline, is a former world junior championships bronze medal-winner at 200 metres. Although he enjoyed the benefit of a slight tailwind in Cardiff, his performance is given greater currency for the fact

Results 35

that Patrick Stevens, of Belgium, Europe's No 1 senior 300 metres runner, was well beaten into second place.

Jamie Baulch, after setting a British indoor record for 400 metres last winter, continues to make strides. Baulch won the 300 metres at Cardiff in 32.06sec, a time that only John Regis, among Britons, has bettered. However, Colin Jackson's form remains a concern. Jackson barely broke 14 seconds for the 110 metres hurdles, although he won.

Britain's other former world champion hurdler, Gunnell, also has time to make up, but her comfort on Saturday was in knowing that she completed her first 400 metres hurdles since she came to grief at the

Olympics last summer. A time of 56.07sec is more than three seconds outside her best.

Brown, unlike most leading British athletes, is not looking towards the world championships in Athens. Though he made the final of the 10,000 metres at the 1996 Olympics, his wife is due to give birth around the time of the British trials and, furthermore, he wants to attempt his first marathon. Though there is never a guarantee that a quick 10,000 metres athlete will make a marathon runner, Brown's 27min 27.47sec in Hengelo will heighten expectation.

While Brown engaged in a tactical race with a group of Africans, he gave little thought to the British record of 27min 23.06sec, set by Eamonn Martin in 1988. The Briton kicked with 550 metres to go, but Ayele Mezegebu, from Ethiopia, came past 200 metres from home to win in 27min 25.01sec. Brown believes 2hr 08min is within his range when he makes his marathon debut in Chicago in October.

Christie's 100 metres victory, more impressive for it being over a strong field than for his time of 10.23sec, was matched by those of Backley, Edwards, Ashia Hansen and Iwan Thomas in Riga. Backley, with his longest throw for five years, sent the javelin 59.02 metres. Edwards began a season in which he defends his triple jump world title with a winning 17.21 metres. Hansen won the women's triple jump with 14.49 metres and Thomas the 400 metres in 45.48sec.

Bannister impressed by Gebrselassie's gifts

By DAVID POWELL

DANIEL KOMEN had never heard of Sir Roger Bannister until the subject of running two four-minute miles without a break came up last winter. Komen, referring to the prospect of breaking eight minutes for two miles, said he was keen to put it in the history books, and politely inquired who Bannister was.

Now he may receive a personal introduction before the summer is out. Even before the spike marks of the failed \$1 million Adidas challenge between Haile Gebrselassie and Noureddine Morceli in the Dutch town of Hengelo on Saturday have had time to heal, the talk is of matching Komen against Gebrselassie in Britain, with Bannister invited as a guest.

"I have spoken to Ian Stewart [Britain's head of events] and he is keen," Jos Hermens, Gebrselassie's manager, said. "I want to see those two guys doing the two miles in Britain, maybe after the world championships. I want to talk to Kim McDonald about it."

McDonald, Komen's manager, said that he was "open to any offers or ideas". He added, however, that it was more likely that Komen, whose 3,000 metres world record of 7min 20.67sec suggests that he should beat eight minutes comfortably, and Moses Kiptanui, his fellow Kenyan and the 3,000 metres steeplechase world record-holder, would try to break through the barrier prior to the world championships.

Hermens, who promoted the Hengelo meeting, had wanted Ban-

nister, the world's first sub four-minute miler, as his guest starter but was unable to contact him. Bannister had been in the United States, returning only last Friday. Too late and probably just as well. The race was a huge anti-climax.

Gebrselassie improved the world best by more than two seconds, to 8min 01.08sec, yet the combination of missing the eight-minute barrier and Morceli's failure to match him much beyond three laps brought a groan of disappointment. Hermens felt that the project failed because of poor pacemaking and because Morceli had come down from altitude in Albuquerque too close to the race.

Bannister, though he could not be there, followed the event with interest. He concurred with the point

made by Hermens, that by the time Gebrselassie had recognised Morceli was not up to it, and the pacemakers had been found wanting, the Ethiopian was left with too much to do. When Bannister broke four minutes, he was without a pacemaker for only the last 230 yards. Gebrselassie was out on his own for some 1,500 yards.

"It takes quite a bit of doing to run a mile on your own," Bannister said. "It was a great run but it is not easy to predict these kind of records and no runner can control the wind." The wind was an opponent in Hengelo, as it had been in Oxford on May 6, 1954, when gusts before the race almost tempted Bannister against the effort.

What surprises Bannister is that Gebrselassie, 5ft 3in, and Morceli, 5ft 8in, should make mile and two-mile runners. Gebrselassie, the Olympic

10,000 metres champion, has demonstrated an extraordinary range. "It is amazing to me that they can run so fast over the shorter distances," Bannister said. "They are perfectly built. I would have thought, for 5,000 metres."

Bannister looked closely at Gebrselassie's foot plant and noticed an advantage. "His foot and heel are absolutely flat and that is something which I think that middle-distance runners did not used to accept. They felt they ran on the ball of the foot. The Africans roll back onto their heel midway through the stride and that causes a total relaxation of the leg."

Though Gebrselassie missed the \$1 million for breaking eight minutes, his world best will earn a bonus. "We will try and do something for him," Hermens said.



Gebrselassie powers away on his own en route to breaking the world two-mile record

RUGBY LEAGUE: BULLS EQUAL RECORD UNBEATEN RUN AND OPEN UP SEVEN-POINT LEAD AT TOP OF SUPER LEAGUE

Belligerent Bradford ready to take on the world

Salford Reds 24
Bradford Bulls 40

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT WILL take an exceptional side to beat Bradford Bulls, and then pressing on the self-destruct button to whittle away a seven-point advantage in the Super League. More demanding questions than those asked yesterday at the Willows will be posed in the next three weeks by Penrith, Auckland and Cronulla in the world club championship.

The game was effectively over at half-time. Thereafter, Salford rallied themselves somewhat, but the damage had been done by inadequate

defending and the sheer robustness of the Bulls. The fact that McNamara converted six of Bradford's seven tries from in front of the posts illustrated the ease with which Bradford beat a path down the middle.

Salford began the season well and reached the semi-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, but wear and tear is taking its toll. Next Sunday, they open their world club championship account away to Adelaide. "With tackling as useful as ours was in the first half, we might as well not get on the plane," Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, said.

Bradford's unbeaten start to the league campaign has equalled the record of 13 opening wins held jointly by Widnes (1981) and Wigan

(1994). "If anyone is going to take our scalp, they are going to have to work damned hard to get it. We're not going to roll over for anybody," Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said. He was less enamoured by the second period, in which

Watson, Martin, McAvoy and Smith enabled Salford to outscore Bradford four tries to three. Perhaps, though, it was wise, in the heat, to conserve energies for the forthcoming visits to Odsal of the Australian Super League trio.

Workington, the bottom-placed club, ended a run of six straight defeats with a 24-12 home win over Swinton with Mateaki Mafi, the Tongan winger, scoring two tries on his debut.

Further scores came from Matt Schultz, Jason Donohue, Steve Craven and a 90-metre interception try from Chico Jackson.

Hull led 34-0 at the break with Tevita Vaikona, the Tongan centre, scoring two tries, and Mark Hewitt, the scrum half, adding a try and five

goals. Further scores came from Matt Schultz, Jason Donohue, Steve Craven and a 90-metre interception try from Chico Jackson.

Bradford's own Australian contingent were in impressive form. As well as scoring a brace of tries, Bradley played a part in three others. Tomlinson, opposite him at half back, triggered the points rush, streaking clear from 40 metres, and Peacock, easily the best of the new Antipodean imports this year, was always there to put vim into the attack and vigour into the defensive line.

His first try was simplicity itself, but Bradley showed good pace for a man of 33, outstripping Sini in a charge to the line from halfway. Revelling in the room and missed tackles, he took the inside track in setting up the position from which Lowe, the hooker, making his third

contribution to the build-up to the last try of the half, led the unstoppable Wittenberg.

Faimala's try from acting half back, in the ninth minute, was Salford's only scoring contribution to the first half. As well as they battled afterwards, further Bradford tries by Lowe, Forshaw and Calland killed off any notion of a comeback.

SCORERS: Salford: Tries: Faimala, Wal 20, Martin, McAvoy, Smith, Bradley; Goals: Wittenberg, Wittenberg; Penalties: Wittenberg, Wittenberg, Wittenberg; Forwards: Calland, Goale: McNamara (6). Salford: Reds: G. Broadbent, F. Sini, D. Rogers, N. McAvoy, P. Craven, S. Bradley, J. Watson, P. Southern, P. Edwards, C. Eccles, E. Faimala, L. Savelle, D. Hume, S. Hume, A. Platt, A. Burgess, S. Mann. Bradford: Bulls: S. Senuo, P. Loughlin, D. Peacock, M. Calland, J. Scales, G. Bradley, G. Tomlinson, P. Anderson, J. Lowe, E. McArthur, M. Forshaw, S. Kree, S. McNamara, S. Wittenberg, N. Gorman, P. Maddy, T. Rishara. Referee: S. Cummings (Widnes).

POLO

Woodchester triumph heralded by Garros

By JOHN WATSON

WOODCHESTER, who are put together by the Irish player Craig McKinney, carried off polo's premier medium-goal trophy, the Royal Windsor Cup, at the Guards Club yesterday with a 9-5 victory against Stefan Marsaglia's Azzura (received half), who had narrowly beaten Rick Stowe's team, Geesburg, in the semi-finals.

Silvestre Garros, Woodchester's seven handicap pivot man, led the attacks that put his squad into a three-goal lead before the close of the first chukka. Azzura's celebrated central duo — Jose Donoso, of Chile, and Andrew Seavill —

were just not quick enough to forestall them. By treading-in time Woodchester were 6-2 ahead, both of Azzura's goals having been scored by Donoso.

Oliver Taylor, whose penalty shots for Azzura had been frustrated by the fierce crosswind, converted a 60-yarder during the fourth chukka and he followed that a minute later with a good goal from the open.

For the winners, Garros scored five and Johnny Good the other four.

WOODCHESTER: 1. C. McKinney (1), 2. W. Taylor (3), 3. S. Garros (7), 4. J. Good (2), 5. A. Seavill (1), 6. J. Donoso (1), 7. J. Donoso (1), 8. J. Donoso (1), 9. J. Donoso (1), 10. J. Donoso (1).

Maturing team secures World Cup victory over Poland to mark end of coach's apprenticeship

Hoddle graduates with honours as England excel

FROM OLIVER HOIT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN KATOWICE

| POLAND | ENGLAND |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0 | 2 |
| Attendance: 35,000 | Shearer (65min) Sheeringham (90) |

SOME of the stadium officials had put bottles of beer out on the small wooden table in the room where Glenn Hoddle was expected. One of them had been left unopened for him, more out of courtesy than expectation, but when he appeared, the abstemiousness that seems to have characterised so much of his England reign was gone. He took the bottle, poured it into a glass and began to drink it.

This, more than any other moment during his nine-match tenure as England coach, was no time for half-measures or cautious celebrations. As he drank and the whoops and cheers of his departing players echoed through the corridors of the Slaski Stadium, everyone knew that they were witnessing the end of an apprenticeship, the flowering of a new phase for the national team.

It has taken a long time to banish the blithe spirit of Euro '96, mainly because no one wanted to let it go. Its memory, though, and the dynamic leadership of Terry Venables, had always seemed to linger over Hoddle's England team and its prosaic efficiency. Saturday night in Silesia changed all that.

There was strength and an inspirational resolve in the team that beat Poland and bolstered England's chances of qualifying for the World Cup finals in France next year without having to rely on a two-legged play-off with another of the best of the rest. But there was flair, too. There was daring in the selection of Robert Lee and Paul Gascoigne ahead of David Batty on such hostile territory and an exciting maturity in the performances of the young and relatively inexperienced rearguard of Gary Neville, Gareth Southgate and Sol Campbell.

There was, indeed, a sense of fruition about the match, a feeling that it marked at last the gelling of Hoddle's team and his graduation as the national coach. At last, it has allowed everyone to look forward to next summer rather than hark back to the delights of last summer.

"I hope this will get people looking forward," Hoddle said. "There are only two games left for us in the qualifying campaign for the World Cup and that is a sign of how close it is getting. Everybody has got to look to the future."

"We should have got Euro '96 out of our veins by now. To be honest, I have never had it

in my veins anyway because I have been concentrating on the task ahead since I took over. But perhaps it was in some of the players' minds and the public's, too.

"In the last couple of weeks, though, for the first time, the whole squad has had an extended period together, just like they did before the European championship. It is the first time we have experienced that and it has been very important for us.

"We have been in each other's pockets and there has been a nice bit of camaraderie between the staff and the players, and everyone else who has been involved. We have put a lot of work into it and it has been very satisfying to see it all pay off."

It paid off quickly, too. The crowd was still baying in the cold night air after Poland's first glimpse of attack when Lee slipped a neat pass to Ince on the edge of the England penalty area and the Inter-

England had a lucky escape after half an hour, when Neville made a rare mistake and allowed a poor Polish pass to run under his foot. Fortunately, Juskowiak, the intended recipient, had turned away in disgust at the inaccuracy of the ball and, by the time that the shouts of the crowd alerted him to what had happened, the chance had gone.

Poland nearly snatched an equaliser three minutes before half-time, when Majak beat Beckham — one of the few England disappointments on the night as he struggled defensively with his wing-back role — to a clever through-ball and slid a pass across England's goal. Southgate hooked it off the line as the Poles hurried themselves towards the ball.

In first-half injury time, though, England should have doubled their advantage. Shearer, who had been outstanding throughout the first 45 minutes, was held after he had controlled Batty's chip into the box and a penalty was awarded. Shearer struck it firmly to the goalkeeper's right, but it rebounded to safety off the foot of the post.

In the second half, the defensive trio — Ince and Le Saux in particular — fought tirelessly to repel the gathering Polish advances and never allowed them a hint of a clear chance.

When the game had slipped into injury time, Lee played a one-two with Sheeringham to breach the offside trap, and when he had rounded Wozniak, he played the ball back to the Tottenham Hotspur striker, who slammed it into the empty net.

On the bench, Hoddle hugged his assistant, John Gorman, and in that room below the stand, the officials started pulling the bottles of beer from their box.

ENGLAND (2-5-1-1): D. Seaman (Arsenal); G. Hoddle (Manchester United); G. Southgate (Aston Villa); S. Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); D. Beckham (Manchester United); sub: P. Neville (Manchester United, 86min); P. Gascoigne (Rangers); sub: D. Batty (Newcastle United, 86); P. Ince (Internazionale); R. Lee (Newcastle United); G. Le Saux (Blackburn Rovers); E. Sheeringham (Tottenham Hotspur); A. Shearer (Newcastle United).
POLAND (2-5-2): A. Wozniak (FC Porto); M. Jankowski (Gungahring); J. Zielinski (Legia Warsaw); R. Kucharczyk (Legia Warsaw); A. Lewandowski (GKS Katowice); K. Kulikowski (Gornik); sub: P. Swierczewski (Bastia, 46); P. Nowak (Miedzi Legia); sub: C. Kucharski (Legia Warsaw, 57); S. Majak (Widzew Lodz); T. Walski (Widzew Lodz); A. Jaskolski (Borussia Monchengladbach); sub: W. Adamczyk (Hutnik Katowice, 51); J. Dembowski (Widzew Lodz).
Referee: U. Meier (Switzerland).



The Poland fans offered their team brief support before concentrating on parochial enmities. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

Evening full of sound and misplaced fury

Nick Szczepanik reports from Katowice on the disaffection of the home supporters and Polish football's hooligan problem

All told, it was a miserable Saturday evening in Katowice for supporters of Poland, their spirits finally as damp as the weather. The long weekend, which began with the official public holiday on Thursday, brought their team's elimination from the World Cup and, in a country which is modernising at a frightening rate in other respects, a continuation of the football hooliganism that, to English eyes, is as dead as the Mexican wave. But, then, the Poles still do that too.

An hour or so before kick-off, a lull in the drizzle and the aroma of pre-match barbecues and the wooded surroundings of the Stadion Slaski had promised better. Inside the ground, however, things were immediately uncomfortable. Open-air seating in a climate like Poland's seemed as bad an idea as dressing in a Santa suit and Groucho mask and banging a big drum — luckily the person in question quickly left his seat nearby in search of other people to annoy.

The singing of the national anthem and the usual football songs, but with Polish lyrics, was rousing. The old standby, *Gwiazdka*, became "We are with you" — ironic bearing in mind what was to follow — while "Poland, white and red" fits the tune of *Go West*, although the home side mysteriously turned out in their second-choice of all red once again against England. Hasn't anyone revealed the concept of unlucky kits to them?

Polish applause for *God Save the Queen* was an unexpected pleasure, but the crowd made up for it by whistling the announcement of the visiting team so loudly that, as far as I could make out, England would be represented only by Tim Flowers, Paul Scholes and Glenn Hoddle.

Once the game had started,

and Shearer's goal had shut Santa up for all of 30 seconds, it did not take spectators long to start arguing among themselves and criticising the players. "They all got drunk last night" and "they want to walk the ball into the net" were typical comments as the home team, ponderous yet brittle, lumbered forward more in hope than expectation.

Even Shearer's penalty miss did not inspire the spectators. Many preferred to discuss the finer points of a half-time skirmish between rival groups of Polish supporters than the football; it

was disappointing that, with their team only a single goal behind, there was so little attempt to lift the players.

Santa left with five minutes to go and, while most crowds would have been urging their favourites to a last, desperate effort, those in the next enclosure gave in to parochial enmities and started a fight. Perhaps it is a good thing that Poland will not reach the finals: some of their followers have yet to learn the lessons that, one fondly hopes, ours have taken to heart.

Outside afterwards, there were few good words for their

team or fellow fans, although England's performance drew admiring comments. "The England players were more professional," Krzysztof, a Wrocław businessman, said. "They should have scored four. The Poles who play in the West saw that it was hopeless and didn't bother. Neville and the others had springs in their feet by comparison."

Arkadiusz, an economics student, agreed. "When Shearer got that pass, he knew what he had to do," he said. "Polish supporters are only interested in fighting and don't know what football is. We have to start again from scratch, and we have a long way to go. But good luck to England."



Hoddle: bold selection

nationale player surged towards the halfway line.

After all the analysis and the bemoaning of the fact that England were overly reliant on Gascoigne for creativity, Ince surged between Bukalski and Waldoch and hit a perfect, defence-splitting pass 30 yards ahead of Shearer. He ran on to it and struck it right-footed unerringly beyond Wozniak. Six minutes had elapsed.

Three minutes later, Gascoigne, who had had no time to impose himself, was caught by a high challenge from Bukalski that left an ugly welt high on his thigh. He struggled on for seven more minutes, leaving Hoddle and his staff in a state of high anxiety on the touchline, before bowing to the inevitable and giving way to Batty.

Parma earn Champions' League slot

ENRICO CHIESA and Hernan Crespo scored the goals as Parma beat Verona 2-1 on the final day of the Italian League season to seal second place in Serie A and earn a berth in the European Champions' League for the first time.

Internazionale, of Milan, had hoped to overhaul Parma but instead settled for third place — and a UEFA Cup berth — after a 2-2 draw at Bologna. Italy's other three representatives in the UEFA Cup will be Lazio, Sampdoria and Udinese, who secured their first-ever European place by beating Roma 3-0.

Sampdoria drew 1-1 with Fiorentina in what was Roberto Mancini's last game after 15 years with the Genoa club. He and Sven-Goran Eriksson, the coach, will move to Lazio next season.

After going behind in the sixth minute at Verona, Parma equalised through Chiesa 11 minutes later, and then Crespo, an Argentina international, scored their winner in the second half.

Juventus, who had already secured their second league title in three years, finished the campaign by drawing 2-2 with Lazio of Rome.

At the bottom of the table, the season is still not over for two teams. By beating Perugia 2-1, Piacenza earned the right to face Cagliari in a play-off relegation game to determine who will go down with the three other relegated clubs, Perugia, Reggina and Verona. Cagliari defeated AC Milan, the deposed champions, 1-0 yesterday.

Rangers reach for shooting stars while Brown broods

By Kevin McCarron

THE international match in Malta yesterday was intended to set a small test for an experimental Scotland defence, but its members made a messy scrawl of the exam paper. Craig Brown's side twice conceded equalisers in the 3-2 victory and the manager is left to ponder his choice of centre backs for the important World Cup qualifying game against Belarus, in Minsk, on Sunday.

With Colin Hendry, Colin Calderwood and Alan McAlister all injured, Brown has been in search of deputies, but the loss of experience could not be disguised in the Ta'Qali stadium. With Brian McAllister replaced by David Weir at the half-time interval, Scotland have not yet found a satisfactory line-up.

Darren Jackson's second goal of the afternoon, in the 81st minute, proved to be the winner. He had also found the net just before the interval and Christian Dailly had headed home after four minutes. Malta, all the same, were surprisingly incisive on the break, scoring through Herbert Suda and Stefan Sultana, a substitute.

Brown was concerned primarily by his defence, yet the forward line, too, can give cause for anxiety. Jackson has become a significant asset, but the brace in Valletta took his total to only three in 19 appearances. While there is great worth in the verve of his overall performance, the manager must have wished that he also possessed a predatory finisher, given that Malta

have conceded 29 goals in seven World Cup qualifying fixtures.

There are other Scots who may be in a position to buy themselves such a figure. The attempt by David Murray, Rangers chairman, to sign Ronaldo from Barcelona appears to have failed, but the episode has revealed the extraordinary incentives the club can offer as it tries to lure the finest talents.

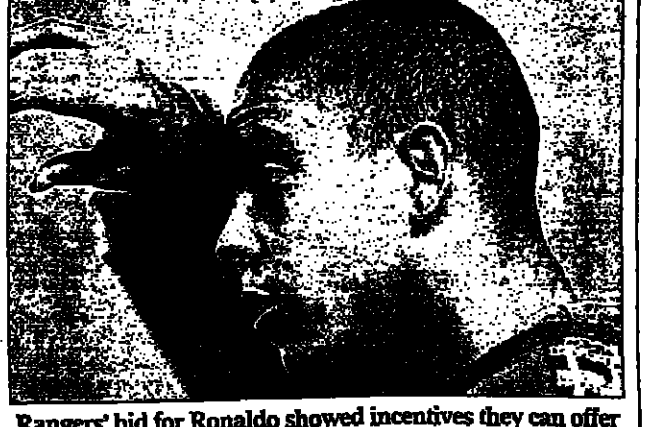
The Brazil forward still prefers to join Internazionale in Milan, but even the most illustrious players may be tempted by the terms available from Murray. Nonetheless, the chairman made his proposal, which was rejected last week, sound pragmatic rather than vainglorious. Barcelona would have received a £20 million fee, while Ronaldo was to be paid an annual salary of £2.5 million.

Murray, however, intended to sell the player in 1999 and believes that Ronaldo's value

will by then have doubled to £40 million. The forward, having agreed to a transfer, would have been given 25 per cent of the increase in his worth, £5 million. Had the scheme worked, Rangers would have been left with £10 million profit after a total outlay of £30 million to Barcelona and Ronaldo.

In addition, there would have been the benefit of two years of dynamism from the player and, perhaps, improved income from sustained runs in European competition. A vast increase in merchandising might also be anticipated at the club that acquires the Brazilian.

Murray has been unsuccessful on this occasion, but the same logic will see him treat international football magazines, with the exalted forwards they chronicle, as catalogues. For Brown, who can only pick Scotsmen, prolific goalscorers are to be found only in daydreams.



Rangers' bid for Ronaldo showed incentives they can offer

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identifies the riville
three-times world champion
motorcycling Championship
Erk in Zellweg yesterday
is list of 500cc winners. Only
is ahead of the Australian
important." Doonan, 31, said
season extended his lead in
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became only the third rider
Mike Hailwood, to win four
Japan, riding a Honda, was
Italy, on a Yamaha, third.

nts away
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the leader's pink jersey he
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men, Filippo Casagrande and

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seven stages left.

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2001 collapsed at Stamford
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a save French title by beating
and three penalties and a
was a disappointment for
last 36, capped a time to
with the championship.

Hobday
Hobday's two-way fight
world triples champion, he
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won the 1994 Grand
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Kane, 24-16 in the final.

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CRICKET: ESSEX SECRETARY STANDS FIRM AGAINST PLANS FOR WHOLESALE REFORM OF ENGLISH GAME

Edwards leads counter-revolution

ALAN LEE

Championship
Commentary

WHATEVER Essex achieve this season, starting with the need to take two immediate wickets at Ilford this morning, the one thing that they will not do is surrender a reputation as the county most resistant to change. Some will call them reactionary, others simply responsible, but they are most certainly intransigent and proud of it.

Within the next two months, a blueprint for the future of the game will be put before the counties by the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Lord Macaulin, of Knebworth. By definition, it will not propose that everyone continues just as they are.

Lord Macaulin is sufficiently new to the territory to be uncertain of specific reaction from the shires, but he will have been warned to expect no encouragement from the Essex delegates if, as he should, he ventures into such contentious areas as a two-division championship or the abolition of a competition.

Peter Edwards has been secretary of Essex for 19 years — only Mike Vockins, at Worcestershire, has been in the job longer — and he is principally known for two things. He runs his club with slide-rule efficiency and he is the most vocal objector whenever the shape and routine of the county programme is threatened with reform.

He makes no secret of this. "It's quite true," he said. "I am a traditionalist, like most people involved with Essex. We do resist change. We don't like coloured clothing or any of the noise and clamour that is coming into one-day cricket and I do not think a great deal



Such, the Essex No 11, is put under pressure during the enthralling county championship match against Yorkshire. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

needs altering in the county structure. I also think most counties agree with us."

Edwards is prepared to accept that the English game, in its broadest form, requires attention, but his targets are deliberately remote from his own domain.

"There are three things wrong," he said, "and, if we

put them right, everything else will fall into place. Cricket in schools must be addressed urgently because it is unacceptable that 80 per cent of kids no longer get cricket in their blood as a matter of course. When I was at school you needed a doctor's certificate to avoid playing cricket and many boys grew to love

the game through it. My fear is that there may be another Denis Compton out there who will never have a bat put in his hands.

"We need another major personality for the youngsters to relate to. The England team has been rather grey of late. We have not really had a fearless, larger-than-life character

since Botham, but I think we may just have found one in Adam Hobbie."

"Finally, of course, we need a better England team, and there are many different views of how we should achieve that." Including, as Edwards knows, changes of the type that he is intent on vetoing.

"Two divisions? 'It would be a disaster.' Regional representative games? There would be no crowds — no one would be interested, including sponsors." The dropping of a one-day competition? "I could not support that. I think the Benson and Hedges Cup, for instance, is a tremendous competition."

Owlsh behind his spectacles and as thick-skinned as he is strident, Edwards may be considered a dinosaur, clinging to the past in a game that must now move into the fast lane to survive. Undoubtedly, he has co-ordinated and articulated opposition to the majority of attempts to streamline the county programme.

He has done so passionately, memorably and infuriatingly, but invariably for what he perceives as the best interests of his county. By way of example, he agreed to Sussex's innovative proposal to start their championship game with Essex this month later in the day but insisted on a 7.30pm finish rather than 8.30pm. "With the minimum-overs rule we could still have been playing after nine o'clock and I don't think most spectators want that," he said.

Edwards is voluble on the rights of county members and battles to stage cricket when he thinks it is best for them and his sponsors. No conversation with him will proceed for long without mention of the sponsors. But call him short-sighted or outdated and the counter-evidence will be presented. When a ballot was held among the counties last year to elect their three representatives on the management committee of the ECB, Edwards finished top. He is seen, especially by those at smaller counties that do not stage Test cricket, as their defender of the faith.

He says that he will support any plan to stage the county championship as an entirely midweek competition, so long as the number of games is not reduced and the teams are not in any way divided. He is willing to accept one-day leagues on both days of the weekend. "It just depends how it is presented to the clubs," he said. "When the Murray report came out a few seasons back it was pushed through on an all-or-nothing basis. I warned the board at the time that within a few years two-thirds of it would have been thrown out, and I was right."

Lord Macaulin has invested much time and attention in his blueprint. Reforming county championship cricket is his priority, and rightly so, but he may rest assured that, if he intends something more radical than these cosmetic changes, he is in for a fight.

Johnson sows the seeds of recovery

Richard Hobson talks to a captain who has had more to worry about than most

Few county cricketers of the present generation have given as much pleasure as Paul Johnson. Not even the stoniest face can remain straight for long when he has a bat in his grip and begins to wield it pugnaciously. It is appropriate, then, that after a difficult introduction to both fatherhood and captaincy, Johnson no longer has to consider a smile of his own a luxury.

In his first season since accepting the baton of leadership from Tim Robinson, Johnson supervised Nottinghamshire to just a single championship win and failed himself to reach 1,000 first-class runs for the second successive summer. A natural worrier, the health of his first daughter, Ruth, who has Down's syndrome and also underwent emergency heart surgery, compounded his uncertainty. Jackie, his wife, was pregnant for a second time.

Kent's victory at Trent Bridge on Saturday, achieved with a day to spare, added credence to Johnson's wise words of the previous evening, when he opined that championship victories over Lancashire and Derbyshire did not amount to a resurgence. Yet he has reason to believe that the seeds of a recovery have taken root. Back at his home in Long Bennington, Ruth has celebrated her second birthday, emerged through the chill of winter bigger and stronger, and is enjoying the company of her sister, Eve, eight months.

Johnson, who has become involved in fund-raising for a Down's charity, said: "When I get to the ground it is a lot easier to switch on to cricket knowing that things are all right with Ruth. She is never going to be the most healthy of girls. At the moment she has a cold and it is more of a problem to her than it would be for other children of the same age, but the more I live with her, the more I learn the best way to go about things."

He intends to express more of his own personality over the coming months. Whereas last season he gravitated naturally towards his own contemporaries, this time he is more prepared to give youth his head. Clive Rice, a towering influence, first selected Johnson at 16, after all, and in Usman Afzaal, Nottinghamshire may at last have discovered somebody to anchor the innings when Robinson eventually retires.

"I strongly believe that a captain is as good as the rest of the team allows," Johnson said. "Everybody goes on about James Whitaker [the Leicestershire captain] but, last season, he had a lot of luck with players staying fit and only had to use 13 for the entire championship. I am not belittling what he did but he is not a Brearley or a Reeve. It was his first year, too, and things went for him that did not go for me."

Last season we were always in losing positions, so I had to get routine fields to restrict the batsmen and try to sneak a wicket here and there. This time I have been able to experiment. When things work, people say my captaincy has improved."

Given the way he bats, it should surprise nobody that even with his problems last season he excelled in the Sunday league, in which Nottinghamshire finished second, level on points with Surrey, the winners. Had England been as adventurous in selecting one-day sides in the past as they are today it is inconceivable that Johnson would not have been picked at some stage.

His best chance of elevation followed a successful A tour of the West Indies in 1992. Keith Fletcher [the team manager for the trip] said he thought I had a role to play for England for several years, but for some reason it did not happen." Johnson said. "It is something I try not to think about. There have been more important reasons to worry."



'He is now ready to give youth its head'

Hayden made to feel at home

IT IS possible to condemn a pitch for being too bland and there is a good case for doing so at Southampton (Alan Lee writes). A moribund championship game has so far produced 1,180 runs in three days and only 13 wickets. At this rate, it would barely reach a natural conclusion in a week.

All credit to the Hampshire batsmen for climbing the psychological mountain necessary to make 482 against Warwickshire simply to avoid the follow-on. They were led to safety by a double century from their Australian, Matthew Hayden, who has always tended towards the big hun-

dreds once he starts making them, and by the first century of Shaun Udal's career.

Barring farcical collusion, however, the match will conclude in the most tepid of draws today and it is hard to imagine that anyone has greatly enjoyed either playing in it or watching it.

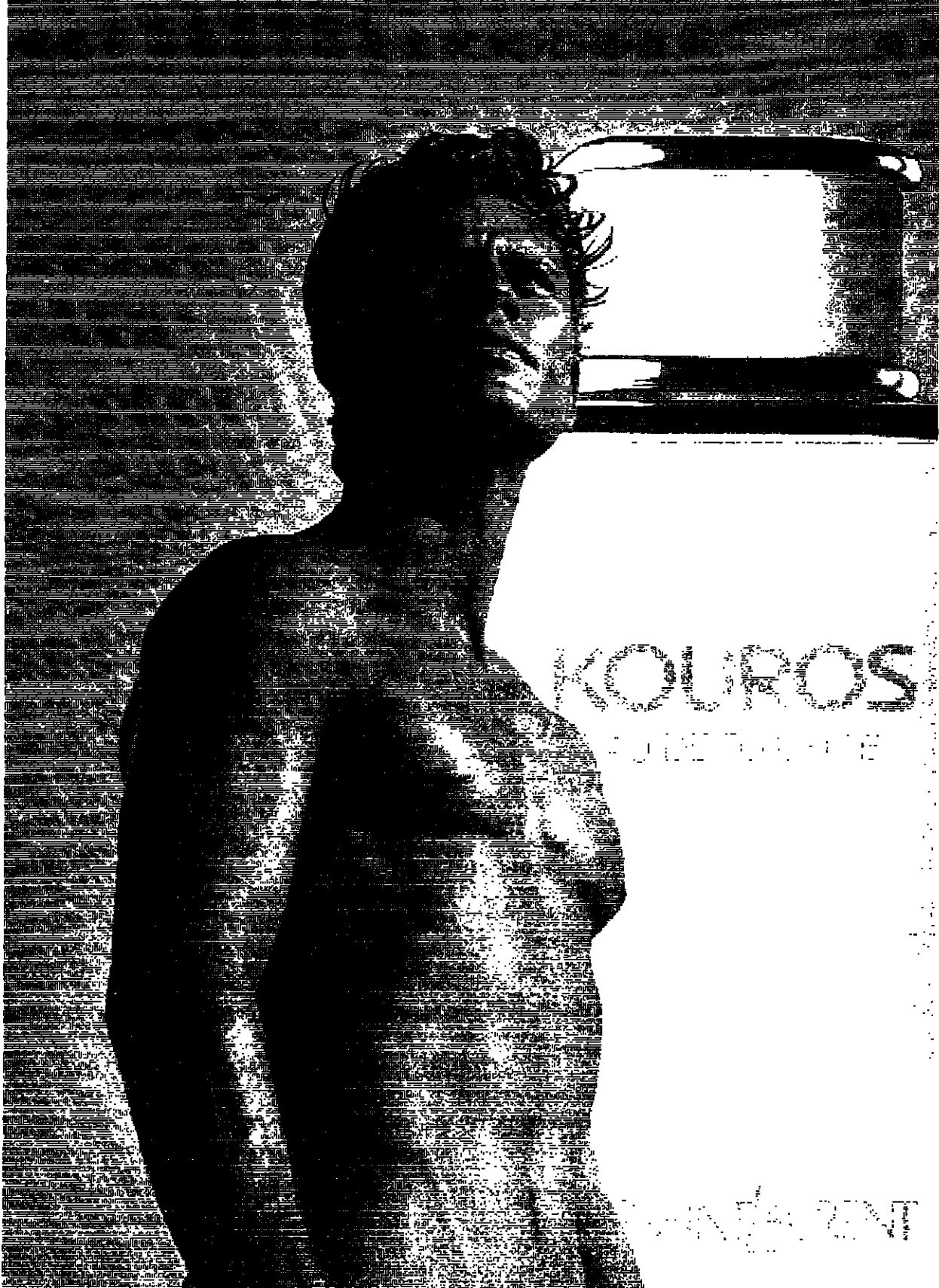
No such problems at Trent Bridge, where Kent won by an innings, well inside three days. Nottinghamshire had won their previous two games, showing some gumption in doing so, but they are essentially a weak side and Kent exposed them.

Durham and Northamp-

tonshire could also be heading for innings defeats. Glamorgan have a tight grip at Cardiff, where Durham, following on, remain 110 runs behind with six wickets left. Northamptonshire are in still worse trouble against Middlesex, 147 adrift following on with only four wickets remaining.

There have been five wickets so far for Phil Tufnell at Lord's and he was not the only England player in form. At Grace Road, Michael Atherton made his first championship century for two years, leading a determined Lancashire rally against Leicestershire.

THE SPIRIT OF CONQUEST



Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Yorkshire

ILFORD (third day of four) Yorkshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, require 10 runs to beat Essex.

ESSEX: First Innings 297 (R J Roberts 90, D Gough 5 for 74)

Second Innings
G A Gough c Bailey b Silverwood 4
A P Glynson c Blythe b Stamp 27
N C Harrison c Blythe b White 38
C J Law c Blythe b Stamp 29
R C Puri c Blythe b Stamp 100
D J Llewellyn c Letchum b Stamp 33
R J Roberts c Letchum b Stamp 0
P J Pridmore c Blythe b White 1
P C Puri c Letchum b Stamp 1
A P Glynson c Blythe b Stamp 1
P M Such not out 2
Extras (lb 4, lb 14, nb 14) 28
Total (110 overs) 312

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-60, 3-88, 4-180, 5-238, 6-239, 7-242, 8-290, 9-297
BOWLING: Gough 18-1-20-0, Silverwood 5-0-12-1, Stamp 31-2-4-77-6, Harley 2-0-15-0, White 16-1-82-3, Vaughan 8-0-34-0, Letchum 1-1-0-0

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 331 (M P Vaughan 181, R J Bailey 92, P M Such 60 for 121)

Second Innings
M D Moran c Roberts b Holt 16
M P Vaughan b Holt 69
D J Blythe b Stamp 17
D S Letchum b Holt 81
P J Pridmore c Blythe b Stamp 33
P J Pridmore c Blythe b Stamp 33
C White c Holt b Stamp 1
D Gough not out 21
C E W. Somerset not out 2
Extras (lb 4, lb 17, nb 24) 45
Total (110 overs) 270

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-26, 3-165, 4-229, 5-232, 6-235, 7-235, 8-238
BOWLING: Holt 10-3-30-2, Cowen 6-1-30-0, Such 34-7-89-5, Grayson 21-0-77-1, S G Law 5-0-23-0
Extras (lb 5, lb 14, nb 14) 29
Total (110 overs) 345

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-58, 3-59, 4-76, 5-81, 6-221, 7-259, 8-258, 9-259
BOWLING: Wagh 20-4-98-3, Watkins 28-2-10-73-4, Thomas 20-7-59-2, Croft 25-4-51-1, Cooker 12-4-41-0, Dale 3-2-5-0

Second Innings
J B Blythe b Wagh 5
P D Collierwood b Wagh 4
J E Jones not out 84
N J Spink b Thomas 25
D C Blythe b Wagh 15
J Blythe not out 6
Extras (lb 4, lb 4, nb 4) 12
Total (110 overs) 142

Third Innings
LORD'S (third day of four), Nottinghamshire, with four second-innings wickets in hand, need 147 runs to avoid a marginally defeat against Middlesex.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 631 (H K Maltby 5 for 79)

Second Innings
J B Blythe b Wagh 5
P D Collierwood b Wagh 4
J E Jones not out 84
N J Spink b Thomas 25
D C Blythe b Wagh 15
J Blythe not out 6
Extras (lb 4, lb 4, nb 4) 12
Total (110 overs) 142

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MIDDLESEX: First Innings 631 (H K Maltby 5 for 79)

SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 3-13, 3-37, 4-141
Wicket 1-5, 3-13, 3-37, 4-141
Wicket 2-18, 3-37, 4-141
Wicket 3-18, 3-37, 4-141
Wicket 4-18, 3-37, 4-141

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings
D J Roberts c Maltby b Tufnell 21
R P Montgomery b Tufnell 0
R J Bailey c Maltby b Tufnell 44
K M Curran not out 27
A L Pridmore c Brown b Hewitt 27
J P Taylor c Weekes b Hewitt 7
D J Pridmore c Weekes b Hewitt 4
T C Watson b Hewitt 2
J N Snape c Gilling b Johnson 2
D J Pridmore c Gilling b Johnson 2
D J Pridmore c Gilling b Johnson 2
Extras (lb 2, lb 10, nb 2) 14
Total (79 overs) 216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-23, 3-72, 4-146
Wicket 1-5, 2-23, 3-72, 4-146
Wicket 2-5, 2-23, 3-72, 4-146
Wicket 3-5, 2-23, 3-72, 4-146
Wicket 4-5, 2-23, 3-72, 4-146

BOWLING: Fraser 13-3-35-0, Hewitt 8-2-12-0, Weekes 12-3-34-1, Taylor 29-14-41-3, Johnson 12-7-34-1, Kales 9-3-20-2
Extras (lb 1, lb 2, nb 2) 5
Total (110 overs) 168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-42, 3-134
Wicket 1-39, 2-42, 3-134
Wicket 2-39, 2-42, 3-134
Wicket 3-39, 2-42, 3-134
Wicket 4-39, 2-42, 3-134

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Wicket 4-39, 2-42, 3-134

BOWLING: Fraser 13-3-35-0, Hewitt 8-2-12-0, Weekes 12-3-34-1, Taylor 29-14-41-3, Johnson 12-7-34-1, Kales 9-3-20-2
Extras (lb 1, lb 2, nb 2) 5
Total (110 overs) 168

Worcestershire v Somerset

Worcestershire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 148 runs ahead of Somerset.

Worcestershire: First Innings 303 (T S Curtis 101, G R Haynes 70, A R Caddick 5 for 64)

Second Innings
T S Curtis c Turner b Caddick 6
W P Cowie c Turner b Caddick 6
G A Hick b W Caddick 17
R J Spring b W Caddick 37
R J Spring b W Caddick 37
D J Haynes not out 16
D A Leathdale not out 35
Extras (lb 4, lb 5, nb 6) 15
Total (110 overs) 189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136
Wicket 1-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136
Wicket 2-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136
Wicket 3-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136
Wicket 4-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136

BOWLING: Caddick 18-5-63-0, Shaw 10-3-26-1, Ahmed 28-9-54-0, Ross 9-23-1-0, Bowler 4-3-2-0, Diamond 2-1-4-0

Score at 120 overs: 341-9
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-108, 3-135, 4-145, 5-168, 6-227, 7-237, 8-256, 9-285
BOWLING: Newport 15-8-22-0, Sherratt 29-9-50-2, Haynes 19-4-54-0, Lampert 28-11-80-3, Leathdale 20-55-5-5, Solanki 5-1-23-0, Hick 5-12-0

Extras (lb 2, lb 5, nb 16) 23
Total (110 overs) 343

Score at 120 overs: 341-9
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-108, 3-135, 4-145, 5-168, 6-227, 7-237, 8-256, 9-285
BOWLING: Newport 15-8-22-0, Sherratt 29-9-50-2, Haynes 19-4-54-0, Lampert 28-11-80-3, Leathdale 20-55-5-5, Solanki 5-1-23-0, Hick 5-12-0

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Extras (lb 2, lb 5, nb 16) 23
Total (110 overs) 343

University match

THE PARKS (second day of three), Oxford University, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs ahead of Sussex.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 234 (R S Sedd A G Fuller 50)

Second Innings
R D Hudson c Pao b Thurstall 2
B W Dyer b Thurstall 4
P C L. Holloway c Rhodes b Sherratt 0
R J Harden b Rhodes b Sherratt 15
B Dyer c Rhodes b Thurstall 37
D J Haynes not out 16
D A Leathdale not out 35
Extras (lb 4, lb 5, nb 6) 15
Total (110 overs) 189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136
Wicket 1-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136
Wicket 2-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136
Wicket 3-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136
Wicket 4-12, 2-40, 3-139, 4-136

BOWLING: Caddick 18-5-63-0, Shaw 10-3-26-1, Ahmed 28-9-54-0, Ross 9-23-1-0, Bowler 4-3-2-0, Diamond 2-1-4-0

Score at 120 overs: 341-9
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-108, 3-135, 4-145, 5-168, 6-227, 7-237, 8-256, 9-285
BOWLING: Newport 15-8-22-0, Sherratt 29-9-50-2, Haynes 19-4-54-0, Lampert 28-11-80-3, Leathdale 20-55-5-5, Solanki 5-1-23-0, Hick 5-12-0

Extras (lb 2, lb 5, nb 16) 23
Total (110 overs) 343

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Total (110 overs) 343

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FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-108, 3-135, 4-145, 5-168, 6-227, 7-237, 8-256, 9-285
BOWLING: Newport 15-8-22-0, Sherratt 29-9-50-2, Haynes 19-4-54-0, Lampert 28-11-80-3, Leathdale 20-55-5-5, Solanki 5-1-23-0, Hick 5-12-0

Extras (lb 2, lb 5, nb 16) 23
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Extras (lb 2, lb 5, nb 16) 23
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CRICKET

Butcher to make England debut in Edgbaston Test

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE twin principles of youth and continuity are promoted in England's selection for the first Ashes Test. Mark Butcher will make his debut after looking the most accomplished batsman on England's winter tour and Alex Tudor, the most exciting young fast bowler in the land, will be introduced to the routines of Test cricket by joining the party during their preparation at Edgbaston.

Faith is quite properly shown in the men who won England's last two Tests in New Zealand — nine of them return for duty against Australia this week. But there is a more romantic return, too, one that for some while seemed implausible. Devon Malcolm is back and, unless the Edgbaston pitch undergoes a metamorphosis before Thursday, he will certainly play.

There were 14 names on the team-sheet yesterday morning, though it is stressed that Tudor is included for experience and will not play. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, explained: "He will join the team as part of our ongoing commitment to identify young players and get them involved. Even a single day with the squad can be valuable to him."

The second teenager named by England this summer, Tudor will be freed to join the first, Ben Hollis, in Surrey's championship team on Wednesday. By then, it is anticipated that the England squad will have been pruned to 12, probably with the release of a spin bowler.

The notion that the younger Hollis would feature in the Test team was unrealistic. His batting is too innocent and his bowling, though rich in promise, is some way behind a queue of competitors. The accusation of such as Dennis Lillee and Geoffrey Boycott that the selectors have lost their nerve misses the point entirely: they actually deserve credit for picking and playing him in the Texaco Trophy.

Elder brother Adam, however, does make his first appearance in a Test squad, which at least saves the selectors from greater public ire. There is no guarantee he will play, ahead of Mark Ealham, but, if the pitch indicates the usual Edgbaston traits of uneven bounce and lateral movement, in other words, suggests the Test may not run its course — he will bat at No 7 and act as an occasional, fifth bowler.

Unless his bowling becomes something more than a bonus, Hollisake Sr must find a way into the top six to establish his Test career. He is capable of doing so but, after the comparative success of those who occupied this department in the winter, it is right that they receive initial loyalty.

The one batsman treated

his shots. He is also left-handed, which was considered useful.

The son of Alan Butcher, he is also the brother-in-law of Alec Stewart and it was appropriate that his inclusion prevented any prospect of Stewart being asked once more to open, in addition to keeping wicket. After years as a nomad in the team, Stewart is comfortable at No 3 and he should be moved only as a last resort.

With Robert Croft now an automatic choice, there was some debate over the second slow bowling position. Ashley Giles, who featured in the one-day series, and Peter Such, who has taken 11 wickets in Essex's match against Yorkshire, were both considered but Philip Tufnell did little wrong in the winter and deserves preference.

Graveney, a fellow slow left-arm, went to see Tufnell on Friday, watched him take wickets and encouraged him to continue taking them by attacking batsmen from round the wicket. "The captain felt comfortable in the winter with two spinners to give him control and we take that view on board," Graveney said.

Just for this match, however, Tufnell looks likely to miss out. Darren Gough and Andy Caddick were certain for two of the seam bowling places and the third, contested by a variety of left-arm contenders, has been decisively claimed by Malcolm's prolific wicket-taking in the past month.

He was prevented from taking any more this weekend when Graveney made a late request to Derbyshire to omit him from their game against the Australians. It was a justifiable intervention, for it would clearly not have been in England's interests for Malcolm to play, but the timing of it angered the Derbyshire captain, Dean Jones.

Upsetting an Australian, however, was not the greatest of concerns for the selectors. They hope to upset a few more later this week.

| SQUAD | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|------|
| | Age | Caps |
| M A Atherton (Lancs) | 29 | 67 |
| M A Butcher (Surrey) | 24 | 0 |
| R C Giddons (Somerset) | 28 | 11 |
| J P Crawley (Lancashire) | 25 | 17 |
| R D B Croft (Gloucestershire) | 27 | 5 |
| M A Ealham (Kent) | 27 | 1 |
| D Gough (Yorkshire) | 26 | 17 |
| A J Hollis (Surrey) | 28 | 17 |
| N Hussain (Essex) | 29 | 1 |
| D E Malcolm (Derbyshire) | 34 | 36 |
| A J Stewart (Surrey) | 34 | 63 |
| G P Thorpe (Surrey) | 27 | 37 |
| P C R Tufnell (Middlesex) | 31 | 27 |

different is Nick Knight. A broken finger delayed the start of his season and he has since looked technically vulnerable around off stump. He was not left out without the longest discussion of the selection meeting in Peterborough, but it is right that he should rediscover his touch in county cricket.

Hugh Morris and Steve James, the Glamorgan openers, were considered as replacements but Butcher, 24, won the vote. He impressed two of the selectors, David Graveney and Mike Gatting, when they were respectively manager and coach of the A team, and his graduation is fully deserved. He has an economical yet stylish technique and the gift of all high quality players, time to play

Gough bounces back onto higher plane

Simon Barnes finds hope springing eternal on the eve of a new Ashes series

It is not entirely true that anticipation is a deeper pleasure than consumption, but it is certainly a more reliable one. Especially where the England cricket team is concerned. So let us savour the moment as the Ashes series begins in earnest this week. Australia appear half as good as we feared, England twice as good as we hoped.

That still leaves scope for a fair old gap. Remember that the teams started the year almost as far apart as it is possible to be. The Grand Canyon gap is, though, a touch narrower than seemed the case in January. We can look at the batting form of the troubled Australia captain Mark Taylor and measure it against the bowling form of England's bouncing Darren Gough.

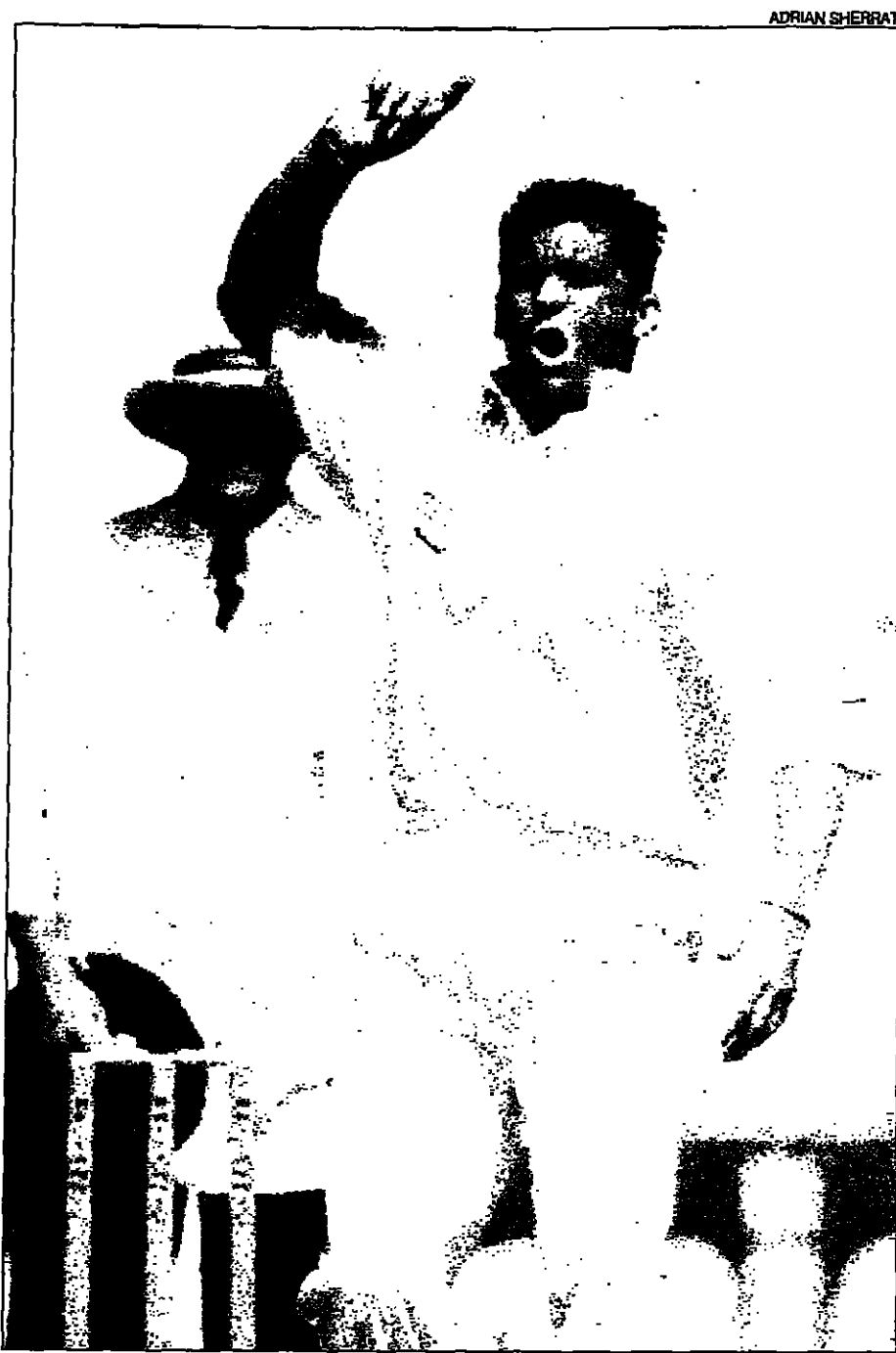
You will remember Gough. He was the New Botham Mk XIII. I think I have got my counting right. Yet another Great England Hope, who stole every headline in English cricket and then vanished in a trice to the *Where Are They Now?* column.

Interestingly, as Gough charged in for Yorkshire against Essex at Ilford on Saturday, the place seemed to be filled with new Bothams. There was Ronnie Irani, of Essex, compiling a well thought-out century; there was Craig White, favoured boy of the former chairman, Ray Illingworth, willing as ever and still a shade below top class.

Still, at least White had a wicket: Gough finished the innings with nought for 78. He took five wickets in the first innings, though, and is said, after a triumphant performance against Australia in the one-day internationals, to be in the form of his life.

He did not seem quite that beneath the swift-screaming sneezes of Valentine's Park, being unable either to dislodge Irani or to knock over nine-ten-jack. But never mind the figures: I watched Gough closely and can report the important fact that he bounced.

Gough is a man who needs



Gough suffers the frustrations of an unrewarding day's work on Saturday

to bounce. He made his entry to Test cricket with a series of magnificently bouncy performances. Bowling, batting — everything — was a delight to him, and he reached his peak in Australia in a Test match in Sydney in January 1995, when he followed a gorgeous, whacking fifty by running through the Australian top order with six for 49.

Then followed a sad story of how Tigger was un-bounced. Gough had seemed a wonderfully uncomplicated cricketer, a wonderfully uncomplicated person, but not

long after his moment of triumph, Gough was filled with self-doubt. The truth is that uncomplicated people are bewilderingly complex.

In England we tend to blame our national zeitgeist when these things happen: how we build 'em up only to knock 'em down; must be something wrong with the country, the way we do this. Why can't we be like Australia, where they know how to nurture young talent?

Australians have precisely the same problem, however. They call it the Tall Poppy

Syndrome: a plant that grows taller than those around it must be chopped down, ostensibly for the plant's own good, in reality because mediocrity — beg your pardon, equality — is a more comfortable concept.

Both countries go in for a fair amount of chest-beating when a young man falters on route to great things, but the truth of the matter is that young men do not need pushing towards self-doubt, failure and fear. They are perfectly capable of finding these things for themselves.

One might go even further, and say that no young man reaches maturity without meeting doubt and fear on the way. Those who are worth anything, anyway. No one could forget Botham's walk back to the pavilion at Lord's after completing his pair as England captain, nor his red-eyed announcement of his resignation.

With Gough, the story of doubt begins with the familiar one of physical wear and tear. Fast bowling is an extreme athletic discipline: it is the nature of the England system to make its practitioners do it far too often. Gough's utterly predictable stress fracture was not of the run-of-the-mill kind. The foot cracked beneath him in his delivery stride — a terrifying moment, a terrifying sound. The audible snap brought Gough to the floor wondering if he would ever bowl again.

Then came the long process of rehabilitation, and with it the curve of good advice. The more shattered a state you are in, the more you listen to advice, the less faith you have in your own solutions. Gough had lost not technique, but that crucial inner-faith. He had been un-bounced.

The fault was not with the advisers but with the listener. He needed to break the cycle of advice and its failure and did so with the help of Shane Warne, of all people. Warne sent him a fax that reached him when he had reached an all-time low. It told him: "Be natural, be yourself."

There are times when a kindly-meant cliché means more than every line in Shakespeare. Such a cliché, from such a source, helped Gough to recover that inner-faith, that bounce. Relying on kind advice is all very well, but ultimately it is funkiness, the real issue. Which is yourself.

A bouncing Gough has a precious talismanic quality, his delight in the game and his relish for the impossible are wonderfully inspiring. A bouncing Gough means that Australia will be playing against the best that England can come up with. Though it would be nice if the un-bounced Dominic Cork could be rehabilitated as well. Perhaps Warne could send him a fax, too.

Adams' tantrum overshadows heartening display by Taylor

By Ivo Tennant

DERBY (second day of three): the Australians, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 253 runs ahead of Derbyshire

DEVON, MALCOLM held court at the Racecourse Ground and spoke of what he has in mind for the Australia batsmen in the first Test. "Nobody," he insisted softly, "likes fast bowling." Be that as it may, Mark Taylor will combat him and England this week in greater heart, for he is, at last, making some runs. Taylor's unbeaten half-century against Derbyshire yesterday was only his third in first-class cricket in a year and a half, and it was not exactly a fluent innings.

His first scoring shot was edged just wide of second slip and he was dropped without addition by, of all people, Dean Jones, a colleague in rosier times.

Yet the captain batted for longer than he has in any innings on this tour — two hours 48 minutes — and his cover drives increasingly found the gaps after tea, bringing him several of his nine fours. If cricket really is played in the mind, his will have been far less cluttered last night.



Dean Jones drops Mark Taylor with the Australia captain on two yesterday

It would be nice to think that Taylor's return to some sort of form overshadowed all else. Alas, the manner in which Chris Adams disputed his dismissal earlier in an eventful day was perturbing. Television replays showed that he had hit the ball, not with the edge of his bat but off the middle, when given out leg-before to Warne. The umpire, Vanburn Holder, was at fault and so were the Australians for the vociferous appealing. But that was not the point.

When he was at Repton, a school so renowned for its cricketing traditions that the great Sir Leonard Hutton sent his sons there, Adams would have been told, time after time,

that a batsman has to accept the decision of the umpire. Instead, he argued first with Holder and then with the Australians, gesturing at them with his bat and then his fist when he did moosh off.

"I thought the ball hit his pad first and then his bat," Holder said. "Chris's reaction disappointed me and he has not apologised yet. Players have to accept umpires' decisions and sometimes we get them wrong. It will be mentioned in my match report."

Adams came close to being selected for the one-day internationals last month. He will find now that this kind of incident will not be forgotten easily.

The likelihood is that Derbyshire have already disciplined Adams. The chairman, cricket committee chairman, secretary, coach and captain met last night and told him of their decision. This will not be released until today, presumably because the club wishes first to discuss the incident with the England and Wales Cricket Board.

The rest of the day's play passed peaceably enough. Of Derbyshire's innings, May, a chunky opener from Chesterfield, made 67, his highest score, in his fourth match. Unafraid to attempt to hook the fast bowlers, he struck 11 fours. When on 57, he was dropped in somewhat comic circumstances when Blewett misjudged a swirling skier. And there was a fascinating period of play when Warne deployed numerous tricks against his compatriot, Jones.

The Derbyshire captain looked to use his feet to him at every opportunity, eventually losing his wicket when yards out of his ground. Julian and Gillespie did not care for the slow pitch and a wind so strong that the balls had to be removed at one end, but they still collected five wickets between them.

Among these was Blackwell, a left hander making his debut. He, too, is from Chesterfield. Who says this county does not produce its own cricketers?

| DERBY SCOREBOARD | | |
|---|-----|--|
| AUSTRALIANS: First Innings | | |
| M A Taylor c Adkins b DeFreitas | 5 | |
| M T G Elliott c Adkins b DeFreitas | 1 | |
| J L Langer b DeFreitas | 1 | |
| G S Bennett b DeFreitas | 121 | |
| S R Waugh c DeFreitas b Blackwell | 43 | |
| M G Bevan c DeFreitas b Blackwell | 56 | |
| T A Hooley not out | 40 | |
| B P Julian not out | 12 | |
| Extras (b 5, lb 2, no 10) | 17 | |
| Total (8 wickets) | 382 | |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-16, 3-147, 4-246, 5-260, 6-335 | | |
| BOWLING: DeFreitas 14-2-61-3; Harris 16-8-70-1; Langer 17-6-1; Adkins 12-3-29-0; Clarke 8-0-42-0; Blackwell 15-1-57-1; Jones 4-0-20-0 | | |
| AUSTRALIANS: Second Innings | | |
| M T G Elliott b Harris | 4 | |
| M A Taylor not out | 59 | |
| J L Langer b DeFreitas | 12 | |
| M G Bevan not out | 58 | |
| Extras (b 3, no 12) | 15 | |
| Total (2 wickets) | 148 | |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-77, 3-114, 4-158, 5-168, 6-188, 7-198, 8-204, 9-206 | | |
| BOWLING: Bichel 5-1-28-0; Julian 20-6-88-3; Gillespie 17-3-82-2; Warne 14-3-45-2; Bevan 5-4-21-2 | | |
| Umpires: V A Holder and R A White | | |

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John Woodcock, cricket correspondent of The Times from 1954 to 1987 and a former editor of Wisden, selects the best players in the history of the game

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RUGBY UNION: STIMPSON AND TOWNSEND ENHANCE REPUTATIONS IN VICTORY OVER WESTERN PROVINCE BUT GRAYSON TO FLY HOME

Lions earn respect for playing fast and not loose

Western Province 21
British Isles 38

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN CAPE TOWN

FOR years the southern-hemisphere countries have grown accustomed to disparaging British back play, so it comes as a pleasant surprise to hear open admiration for the brand of rugby being played by the British Isles. Even more so when that approach means one further step in the development of a Lions team which can go head to head with the country that holds the World Cup.

The hints of an ambitious handling game that were apparent in the opening match of the tour in Port Elizabeth a week earlier were confirmed on Saturday amid the towering stands of the historic

Newlands ground here. Western Province is a name to conjure with and, though the Lions did not pass their test with all colours flying, they were right to enjoy the many positive aspects that their third outing offered.

In particular, they took a substantial step along the road to answering the dilemma of their most effective combination at full back and stand-off half. By kicking seven goals from eight attempts, Tim Stimpson demonstrated a clear alternative to the more established international goal-kicker, Neil Jenkins; by adding a solid tactical base to his acknowledged gifts as a runner and distributor, Gregor Townsend, at stand-off half, showed a management of the game which has not always been apparent.

Stimpson had always been first-choice kicker for his previous clubs before he joined

Newcastle last year, so to that extent he was only resuming a skill left fallow by the presence at Kingston Park of Rob Andrew. "Every game is important for a variety of things, but this was one where I went well with the boot," the full back said. "Part of that comes from the help I have had from the other kickers, including Neil, and from Dave Alred's coaching."

It was not merely that Stimpson kicked 18 points on a hot afternoon when, had the Lions lost concentration in mid-match, the game might have leaked away from them, but the manner in which he did so: his goals soared through the uprights from both touchlines, giving confidence to forwards who, despite the overall pace of the game, lasted better than their hosts, who failed to score during the final half-hour.

Significantly, the Lions forwards readily admit the need to play an expansive game and, though their efforts suffered in the set scrums, they are coming to terms with the playing philosophy that Ian McGeechan, their coach, expounds. He believes his tight forwards must accept the need for a fluid game not as a matter of convenience but as the basis to their entire approach and he was delighted to hear Martin Johnson, the captain, express that view.

"That's the game we want to play, it's how the world game is going," Johnson said. "That game was tougher than anything we have had in the five



Williams, the British Isles hooker, takes on the Western Province defence, with Leonard in support. Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport

nations' in my experience. It is beneficial for the Lions to play under such pressure because only then will they refine their handling."

Yet Dick Muir and Harry Viljoen, respectively the captain and coach of Western Province, were united in their appreciation of the fast game played by their opponents, and, with greater accuracy and better decision-making, the Lions might have scored another four tries.

As it was, they were ten points up in nearly as many minutes. Stimpson's opening volley was followed by a drive

by Shaw that created the space for Howley and Gusson to send Bentley over. The same three backs were involved when Western Province, running out of defence, lost possession and room was created for Tait.

In between, however, Muir scored two tries for Western Province, both from heavy scrummage pressure on the Lions line and the desire to search for tries rather than take penalty kicks at goal. When Van Heerden, a dependable lock whose all-round game will surely earn him a place in the national squad to

be named today, won a lineout on the Lions 22, Muir was also able to force the half-break from which Aiken broke into a clear field and Brink scored, the left-footed Montgomery giving his side a 21-15 lead.

Western Province could not force the issue, however. Not one of their speedy backs could find sufficient space and, though Small rounded Bentley with his one opportunity, the fiery Springbok wing spent a frustrating afternoon in verbal skirmishing with the Englishman. Stimpson punished offside twice to restore the lead and Howley, bright as a diamond, cut through midfield and delivered a scoring pass to Evans.

Nor were the Lions content to close down the match in the final minutes to protect their ten-point lead. Townsend's long pass would have put Greenwood clear had not the centre, a late replacement, dropped the ball; instead, Townsend's tackle on Montgomery created a loose ball that Hill sidefooted to the left, where Bentley collected the easiest of scores.

SCORERS: Western Province: Tries: Muir (2), Brink. Conversions: Montgomery (2). British Isles: Tries: Bentley (2), Tait, Evans. Conversions: Stimpson (3). Penalty goals: Stimpson (4).

WESTERN PROVINCE: J. Swart, J. Small, R. Fleck, R. Muir (captain), S. Bentley, P. Montgomery, S. Venter, G. Pienaar, A. Pienaar, K. Andrews, R. Brink, F. van Heerden, H. Louw, C. Krige, A. Aiken. Pienaar replaced by A. van der Linde (57 min). Krige replaced by R. Stuurman (65). Muir temporarily replaced by L. Koen (57-68).

Referee: A. Schoonwinkel (Free State).

Catt call as replacement

BY DAVID HANDS AND MARK SOUSTER

THE pleasure the British Lions have taken from their success in Cape Town was diluted even as they prepared for yesterday's flight to Johannesburg: Paul Grayson, the Northampton stand-off half, becomes the first player requiring replacement on the tour in circumstances which suggest he should not have travelled in the first place.

The management have asked for Mike Catt, of Bath, to be released from England's tour to Argentina, which has a week to run, and hope that he will arrive in South Africa on Wednesday. Catt missed Lions selection by a whisker, but scored 21 points for England during their victory over Argentina in Buenos Aires on Saturday and could find himself facing Northern Transvaal next weekend.

Catt said: "I am really quite shocked. It is the ultimate ambition for any player in the United Kingdom to go on a

Lions tour. Hopefully, I can take this chance with both hands."

Grayson's tour has been undermined by his prolonged absence from rugby during March and April, when he was recovering from a hip injury. When he resumed goal-kicking at home, he strained a thigh muscle but was passed fit when the Lions gathered in Weybridge; however, in training last Tuesday, he sustained a similar injury but chose not to mention it, playing against Border the next day and struggling on a soft, slippery surface.

"Paul played in that match without reporting the injury," Fran Cotton, the manager, said. "Sometimes emotion takes over from clear thought processes and that showed in his performance." No disciplinary action will be taken against the player for what might be considered, in a professional context, poor

judgment, but he will not receive his full tour fee of £10,000.

"It's more annoying in that I feel perfectly all right and fit to run around," Grayson said. "It's just that, when I come to a flat-out performance, it doesn't hold up. It's not like I'm going home with something that definitely rules you out. I'll have to find out what's wrong, have another scan and see if there is any extra damage."

Meanwhile, England have sent for Steve Diamond, the Sale hooker, as a replacement for Phil Greening, who was concussed against Argentina on Saturday and will take no further part in the tour. Diamond, 29, becomes the fifth Sale player in the party. He is expected to arrive in Argentina on Wednesday. Will Green, the Wasps prop, is expected to arrive today as cover for John Mallett, who has a back injury.

Auckland's success may inspire S Africa

THE legitimate claims made by Auckland Blues to be the best provincial team in the world could receive an even sterner examination when the Super 12 tournament resumes in the southern hemisphere next year (David Hands writes). Having overcome the event's surprise package, ACT Brumbies, 23-7 in the final at a rain-soaked Eden Park on Saturday, Auckland may find that South Africa will flatter them by imitation.

A proposal will be discussed this week by the executive of the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) to create four regional teams, involving the country's best players, for 1998. Rian Oberholzer, the Sarfu chief executive, seeks an amalgamation of provinces to replace the four most successful Currie Cup provinces in the Super 12. This would expose those players to a higher level of competition and broaden the base for international selection.

The Blues will not concern themselves with that just yet. They retained the trophy against possibly the most innovative team in the competition with a display of inspired defence and meticulous preparation. That they weaved their spells as well as they did in the heavy conditions before easing off in the final quarter was remarkable and their success is likely to promote Rod McQueen to the position of national coach next year.

SCORERS: Auckland Blues: Tries: Dowd, Jones. Conversions: Chisholm (2). Penalty goals: Chisholm (3). ACT Brumbies: Try: Roff. Conversions: Roff.

Fluent England exceed Rowell's expectations

Argentina 20
England 46

FROM MARK SOUSTER
IN BUENOS AIRES

DURING the past fortnight, Jack Rowell has compared England's foray to South America to a mystery tour, which might or might not lead towards World Cup success in 1999 with him in the driving seat. The coach may have taken the odd wrong turn during his stewardship, but what this six-try defeat of Argentina proves is that he, and English rugby, are heading in the right direction.

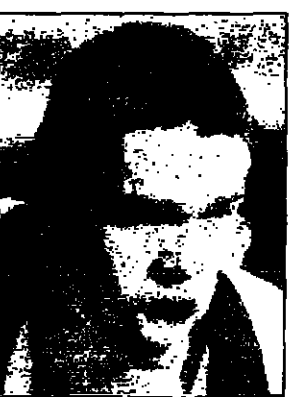
This was a considerable achievement and a marvellous advertisement for the national game — a watershed even. Rowell now knows that he has at his disposal up to 30 players who will have proved themselves at international level by the time that the World Cup squad is picked. To beat Argentina so decisively in their own backyard on Saturday underlines the strength in depth in the English game.

The margin and manner of victory will also have turned heads in South Africa, where 18 English players are with the British Isles — a fact alluded to by Adebayo Adebayo, the scorer of two tries. "I am glad I am on this tour," he said. "I need to cement my England future, that is the long term. The Lions is short term, and I need to impress Jack."

The so-called second string, including the six new caps who started the game and Richard Cockerill, a replacement for the injured Phil

Greening, seized their chance in a manner that not even Rowell, who described the performance as one of England's "best ever", could have imagined.

"This is a major uplift for us, a major stride forward, but Argentina will come back very strongly," Rowell said. Phil de Glanville, the captain, said: "This was absolutely crucial for us. We need to crown it now by winning both Tests. We were playing within our-



Diprose outstanding

selves when we started, but as soon as we cast off the shackles we reaped dividends."

In front of a raucous 20,000 crowd in the Ferrocarril Oeste stadium, England were under relentless pressure in the opening period. However, once they had reorganised their defensive alignment and stopped committing their forces to the blind side — leaving the three-quarters exposed to the bullocking Argentina loose forwards, whose runs created overlaps from which Quenda and Arbuz scored — England prospered.

They won better ball from the set-pieces and the loose, which enabled them to develop the running game that has served them admirably on tour.

In the early exchanges, when England scored a try by Greenstock against the run of play after Catt's trademark chip and chase, Tony Diprose was outstanding. The Saracens No 8, whose understanding with Bracken was pivotal, won several balls on the deck and turned opponents in the tackle. He also scored the injury-time try that gave England a 17-13 interval lead, from which they never looked back.

Argentina, attempting a loose, expansive game for which their stamina did not allow, played into England's hands and, by half-time, were out on their feet. England sensed it and went for the jugular. In ten heady minutes, Adebayo, Clarke and Catt scored in a blur of free-flowing rugby.

SCORERS: Argentina: Tries: Quenda, Arbuz, Solari. Conversions: Quenda. Dropped goals: Quenda. England: Tries: Adebayo (2), Greenstock, Diprose, Clarke. Conversions: Catt (3). Penalty goals: Catt (1).

ARGENTINA: E. Juarbe (Propose), T. Solari (Hooker), E. Semone (Lock), L. Arbuz (Scrummer), F. Solari (Tigh), G. Quenda (Flyhalf), M. Fernandez Miranda (Flyhalf), M. Reggardo (Scrummer), F. Mendez (Scrummer), R. Grau (Scrummer), P. Martin (Scrummer), G. Llanes (Scrummer), P. Spohrer (Scrummer), P. J. Camerlinck (Scrummer), B. Vela (Scrummer), P. Bouza (Scrummer), M. Mendez (Scrummer), S. Pienaar (Scrummer), L. Llanes (Scrummer), L. Llanes (Scrummer), L. Llanes (Scrummer).

ENGLAND: J. Mallett (Scrummer), J. M. Sheehy (Scrummer), N. J. Greenstock (Scrummer), P. R. de Glanville (Scrummer), A. Adebayo (Scrummer), M. J. Catt (Scrummer), P. P. Bracken (Scrummer), K. Yates (Scrummer), P. T. Greening (Scrummer), D. J. Garforth (Scrummer), M. Comy (Scrummer), N. C. Redman (Scrummer), M. Haeg (Scrummer), R. B. Clarke (Scrummer), A. J. Diprose (Scrummer), G. Llanes (Scrummer), G. Llanes (Scrummer), G. Llanes (Scrummer).

Referee: I. Rogers (South Africa).

TENNIS: GRAF AND HINGIS DROP SETS BEFORE OVERCOMING TESTING CONDITIONS

Kafelnikov refuses to be blown off course

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

ON THE seventh day of the French Open, a billowing wind over Roland Garros that would have grounded the aviator who named the stadium is named, scattered some of the top seeds yet inspired others to superb defiance of the elements.

Yevgeni Kafelnikov, the Russian who holds the men's singles title, simply grows more serene by the round. He mastered the conditions as well as he did his young Australian opponent, Mark Philippoussis, using guile against power and his considerable edge in experience to win 6-2, 6-3, 7-5 in just 90 minutes.

Kafelnikov, still the Russian pessimist, still saying he is not satisfied with his game, refused to be blown out of his

Paris results 35

rhythm. But, on the same centre court, Alex Corretja, the Spaniard whose baseline game has been more consistent than that of anyone else over the last three months, fell in two hours 57 minutes, over four sets, to Filip Dewulf, the first Belgian to reach the quarter-finals since 1958, and only the third man to come through the qualifying rounds to reach this stage.

In defeat, Corretja will be remembered for a supreme moment of sportsmanship, refusing to take a crucial break point that was awarded to him. "I saw the ball was on the line, I cannot say it is out," he said. "I have to be honest, even if it's break point or advantage for him. That's the way I felt on court."

Bravo for a loser, whose reward for setting such an example was to have a string break in his racket in the very next game and eventually fail to live up to the expectations of those players who thought this would be Corretja's year.

The crowd, alas, learnt nothing from Corretja and failed to appreciate that Monica Seles is just about the most feisty competitor around.

Late in the evening, when she was imposing her will on Mary Pierce, the adopted French heroine, they persistently tried to break her concentration with crude Mexican waves and catcalls.

Seles won the first set 6-4 and led 4-3 in the second, demonstrating to the full the courage with which she is retrieving her career and trying to raise the spirits of her father and coach, Karolyi, who is seriously ill back in Florida. Just once she faltered, dropping her service game to love. But this is a special spirit. She grunted volubly, came back to deplete Pierce of her service, also to love, and when she had won that second set 7-5, raised a fist to the French.

How that wind tugged at the dresses, and the concentration of the ladies. Steffi Graf, playing on the centre court between the rising Belgian, Dewulf, and the omnipotent Kafelnikov, struggled at first with herself.

She seemed dominant in the first set against the Romanian, Irina Spirlea, yet managed to lose it in the tie-break. This raised her hackles and her German pride, and she wore down Spirlea, claimed the victory by winning successive sets 6-2, 6-2.

It is beginning to look as if



Graf hits a stunning forehand volley during yesterday's win over Spirlea

she is regaining her game, despite the injured left knee and the chatter among rivals that she is vulnerable. Her next opponent, Amanda Coetzer, who eliminated the higher-ranked Conchita Martinez in three sets, has recently beaten Graf twice. But that was a convalescing German; this appears a resurgent one.

On the Suzanne Lenglen court, Magnus Norman, the Swede ranked 65th in the world, continued to be the conqueror. Having ousted Britain's Greg Rusedski and the ailing Pete Sampras, yesterday he destroyed Marc Rosset, who of all the competi-

tors managed to blame the wind and only the wind for his defeat. Rosset, a winner 99 times on clay, swore about the elements, then said: "I am not Mother Teresa. I don't care. I am not here to do charity to anybody."

Norman was told of his opponent's bitterness. "No one is winning because of the wind," replied the phlegmatic young Swede.

"I don't know if it was blowing more on his side. I knew when I came here in the morning that I wasn't going to play good tennis. You have to fight and fight to win in these conditions."

Martina Hingis, No 1 in the

world and unbeaten in 38 matches this year, comfortably won her first set against Austria's Barbara Paulus, 6-3. She then lapsed to surrender the second set 6-0. Was the finest flower about to be blown away? Twenty-four minutes later we had our answer.

Hingis did to Paulus what had been done to her, a love set wrapping up the match. And, at last, there was a British win on these courts. In the morning, David Sherwood won in the junior section, by 7-6, 2-6, 6-3 against Paradorn Srichaphan, of Thailand. It was not, perhaps, a victory that suggests he will excel, but it was welcome for all that.

Yen for Yankees sees rookie strike it rich

Tunku Varadarajan on the unheralded Japanese pitcher who has finally arrived in baseball's promised land

To gasps all around, some of glee and others of sheer disbelief, the New York Yankees signed Hideki Irabu, the Japanese pitcher, on a four-year contract worth \$12.8 million (about £7.3 million) — more money than has ever been offered to a Major League rookie.

Irabu has never played baseball outside Japan. It is as if Liverpool had lavished a vast sum for a footballer from Cameroon, whose only international experience was the odd away game in Guinea-Bissau, and launched him straight into the FA Cup Premiership.

A bit of a gamble? Undoubtedly. Yet the Yankees, the most celebrated sports team in America by far, are convinced that they are on to a winner.

Irabu is a starting pitcher, which is the baseball equivalent of an opening bowler. At his best, his pitches have been recorded at 100 miles per hour, evoking comparisons with Nolan Ryan, the Texan pitcher regarded as perhaps the briskest of all time. To put it in perspective, he pitches as fast as Jeff Thomson bowled.

Such speed is startling in a pitcher from Japan, but Irabu is built like an Osaka ox. At 6ft 2in and 185 stone, he is probably the heaviest non-Sumo wrestler Japanese man in sport. He has a thick neck, the chest of four shepherds and a big "pitcher's butt" — an athletic asset in a sport where the gluteus is always maximus.

Irabu's odyssey to the Yankees, however, is startling too. He has played for eight years in the Japanese Pacific League, with the bizarrely named Chiba Lotte Marines. However, professional baseball in Japan is like indentured labour, and in January the Marines traded him to the San Diego Padres, a club in which Irabu had no interest but

with which the Marines have had cosy business links for years.

Irabu, naturally, was a bit miffed, and simply refused to play for the Padres. Instead, with a most un-Japanese pushiness, he insisted that he be transferred to the Yankees, who had already shown a desire to have him on their payroll. "I play for no one," Irabu belted memorably at a crowd of Japanese journalists at Tokyo airport in March.

After months of wrangling, almost all of it bitter, the Yankees and Irabu got each other over the week-end. The club's Napoleonic owner, George Steinbrenner, who has not once seen his man hurl a ball, offered him a mouthwatering deal by the standards of a man yet to play in the Major League.

Irabu will receive a signing bonus of \$8.5 million (about £5.2 million) payable over three years, and salaries of \$200,000, \$300,000, \$1 million and \$2 million for the next four years. The Yankees have also secured an option for a fifth year, at a salary of \$4 million.

The question that has

intrigued everyone, though, is this: Why? Is Irabu that good? What if the dream deal curdles quickly?

Irabu is fast, but he is artless. He has, as yet, no "forkball" (or outswinger) worth the name. He has pitched only at Japanese hitters and at those American who play in the Pacific League, invariably rejects from the American Major League. Will not batters such as Ken Griffey Jr — baseball's Brian Lara — simply murder him?

The Yankees, however, know all about that. A coach said: "Look, the boy's got talent. We'll show him what to do with it. Give us some time with him and he'll be as sharp as a laser beam, the best."

The example of Hideo Nomo, a Japanese pitcher signed by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1995, is a fertile source of optimism. He was voted rookie of the year and, if he could succeed, so can Irabu, who is faster, fiercer, meaner and more talented. Already dubbed the "Orient Express", the man from Japan is New York's latest, and most unlikely, All-American Boy. All he needs to do now is to learn to pitch a forkball.



Irabu's signing has taken American sport by storm

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

| TODAY | TOMORROW | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| CRICKET Test: Challenge Series 11.0, final day of five Derbyshire v Australia British Assurance county championship 11.0, final day of four 9.0, over 100 runs ILFORD: Essex v Yorkshire CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Durham SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Warwickshire LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Lancashire LONDON: Middlesex v Northamptonshire WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Somerset | FOOTBALL TOURNOI DE FRANCE: France v Brazil (at Lyon, 7.45) RUGBY UNION TOUR MATCH: Cuyo v England XV (at Mendoza, 7.0) OTHER SPORT GOLF: British amateur championship (at Royal St George's and Royal Cinque Ports) MOTORCYCLING: TT races (Isle of Man) RACING: Newcastle (2.15); Wetherby (2.30); Doncaster (2.45) SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bedford v Ipswich (7.30); Premier League: Swindon v Walsley (7.30); Reading v Sheffield (7.30); Amateur League: Wokingham and Long Eaton v Ipswich and King's Lynn (7.15) | FOOTBALL TOURNOI DE FRANCE: Italy v England (at Torino, 7.30) CRICKET BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four): Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Hampshire; Chesterfield: Durham v Sussex; Tunbridge Wells: Kent v Warwickshire; Lord's: Middlesex v Lancashire; Northamptonshire v Nottinghamshire; Taunton: Somerset v Gloucestershire; The Oval: Surrey v Essex; Headingly: Yorkshire v Gloucestershire RUGBY UNION TOUR MATCH: Mupfema v British Isles XV (at Walsley, 2.15) RUGBY LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION: Brackley v Leigh Centurions (7.30) OTHER SPORT GOLF: British amateur championship (at Royal St George's and Royal Cinque Ports); International match: Great Britain and Ireland v South Africa (at Lifford Gaugher) MOTORCYCLING: TT races (Isle of Man) RACING: Bawley (6.30); Chester (6.40); Ffosfawr (6.30); Newcastle (2.30); Warrack (2.15) SPEEDWAY: Elite League: King's Lynn v Wokingham (7.45); Poole v Ipswich (7.30); Premier League: Hull v Reading (7.30); Long Eaton v Stoke (7.45); Amateur League: Long Eaton and Wokingham v Loughall (7.30) TENNIS: Surrey International Championships (at Surbiton) | CRICKET BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four): Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Hampshire; Chesterfield: Durham v Sussex; Tunbridge Wells: Kent v Warwickshire; Lord's: Middlesex v Lancashire; Northamptonshire v Nottinghamshire; Taunton: Somerset v Gloucestershire; The Oval: Surrey v Essex; Headingly: Yorkshire v Gloucestershire RUGBY UNION TOUR MATCH: Mupfema v British Isles XV (at Walsley, 2.15) RUGBY LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION: Brackley v Leigh Centurions (7.30) OTHER SPORT GOLF: Slaley Hall Grand Prix of Europe (Slaley Hall, Hereford); British amateur championship (at Royal St George's and Royal Cinque Ports); Jersey Seniors Open (at La Moye) MOTORCYCLING: TT races (Isle of Man) RACING: Epsom (2.10); Doncaster (2.30); Goodwood (6.30); Haydock Park (6.40); Southwell (A.V., 2.30); Perth (6.50) SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Swindon (7.30); Premier League: Edinburgh v Newport (7.30); Oxford v Glasgow (7.45); Premier League Cup: Arena Essex v Reading (8.0); Amateur League: Belle Vue v St Austell (9.0) TENNIS: Surrey International Championships (at Surbiton) | CRICKET BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four): Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Hampshire; 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| Questions for 1st test | No of Runs | High or Low | Stake |
|---|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| How many runs will Graham Thompson score in the 1st Test? | 75 | MORE or LESS | (min 20, max 100) |
| How many runs will Mark Waugh score in the 1st Test? | 85 | MORE or LESS | (min 20, max 100) |
| Lowest team batting score | 230 | MORE or LESS | (min 20, max 100) |
| Highest individual innings | 125 | MORE or LESS | (min 20, max 100) |
| Highest opening partnership | 85 | MORE or LESS | (min 20, max 100) |
| Total staked (max 200) | | | |

The breaker: What will be the batting score of the team batting first? - RUNS (no stake needed)

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| £2,500 to £24,999 | 4.00 | 4.07 | 3.20 | 3.24 |
| £25,000 and over | 4.50 | 4.59 | 3.60 | 3.65 |

| Direct Interest Savings Account (formerly 02 Day Account) | Gross | Gross CAR | Net | Net CAR |
|---|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
| Credit Interest | % p.a. | % p.a. | % p.a. | % p.a. |
| £1 to £999 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.40 |
| £1,000 to £2,499 | 3.75 | 3.80 | 3.00 | 3.03 |
| £2,500 to £4,999 | 4.75 | 4.83 | 3.80 | 3.85 |
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| £50,000 and over | 6.00 | 6.13 | 4.80 | 4.88 |

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HOW TO ENTER

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CHANGING TIMES

Miniature perfection on the Piddle

Small is beautiful fishing in Lilliput

BY BRIAN CLARKE

AS MIGHT be guessed by its name, streams do not come smaller than the Piddle. It is a tiny thing, winding and twinkling like a tinsel thread, with the lushness of deep Dorset all about.

The Meon, in Hampshire, is a mighty affair. There are deeps and glides, tumbles and rapids. In places the Meon is more than a rod's-length wide. It flows through country not unlike that around the Piddle, but on Hampshire's larger scale.

Both streams are as clear as a young girl's eyes. Golden gravels cover their beds. Everywhere green ranunculus sweeps and curls on the currents and the water plays with the daisy chains the delicate plants offer up. Here and there trout — small trout, wild trout, fin-perfect and beautiful trout — rise in the channels and in shady places under the banks.

Fishing both of these River Tests-in-miniature, together with a couple of other waters too small and obscure to name, proved a joy in the last week of May. But then, fishing in Lilliput is always a joy.

There is an intimacy about a tiny stream that a big river, by its nature, cannot possess. Things are usually seen in close-up or else not seen at all.

On the Meon a water vole sat up like a squirrel and nibbled a strand of weed inches from my wellies as I crouched in deep cover. On the Piddle a water vole swam from my bank to the other, right into the sun. For just a second a globe of water somehow balanced on its back. It caught the light like the Koh-i-noor.

On one of the tiniest streams a kingfisher rounded the bend up stream, saw me and simply kept on coming, perhaps because I was standing still. It jinked and banked around me, almost squeezing by.

Several times in Lilliput I found I had to wade: the awkwardness of the banks, or the way the trees reached and met overhead, meant that getting into the water was the only way to fish.

Wading in Lilliput with the water sleeking and racing all about seems, for all one's disproportionate size, to absorb physically, to draw one down into the whole living organism. The stream seems to accept someone wading — someone wading sensitively and carefully — the way fish swimming deep will accept a

diver. It is as though being in there, being a part of it, makes the awful intrusion less.

Wading through a tunnel on the Meon I got so close to a trout that I could have reached down and tickled it. On the Piddle a fish drifted out from a ranunculus bed and settled down to feed steadily on passing flies, tilting and sipping, maybe eight feet away.

Of course, when fishing in Lilliput, everything needs to be scaled down — expectation no less than tackle. Leviathans do not normally swim in tiny streams though, these being chalk streams, the fish still can surprise. One man I know makes a speciality of finding and catching big fish from waters that are hardly there at all. He has had fish over three pounds from one stream so narrow that I can literally step over it.

Yet still, the average fish in Lilliput weighs three or four ounces, a good fish goes half a

pound, a corker about three-quarters. It was with much incense-burning and camera-clicking that I returned a wild brown trout of around 14 ounces to one of the Piddle's deeper pools and I lost — will I blow all credibility

to suggest it? — a fish that would have gone the whole-hog pound.

On all four little streams I used the same 9ft 9in split-cane wand my wife bought for me — well, allowed me to buy — one of those Big Zero birthdays long ago. It fishes a 4-weight line. If you point it in the right direction and the wind is at all forgiving, it will put a fly onto a saucer at short range. Which, of course, was exactly what was wanted. There was never much fly about. The chaffinches and the wagtails seemed to get most. The trout saw a few and took them. Most of the time it was a case of standing for long periods without fishing at all, or reading the water and casting to likely spots.

Fly fishing offers many rewards, but few are as fulfilling as knowing that you have read the water well. Here is the river, winding and sliding. More than half the surface — often much more than half — is covered with ranunculus flowers swaying and curtsying. Channels between the beds open and close, currents cut into bends, water falters ahead of this obstruction, there is something oddly attractive about that place over there.

Where will the fish be?

Where will a big fish be? If I were a fish wanting maximum food for minimum effort, where would I want to be? The eye searches, the mind weighs, the cast responds. Here. There. A little beyond that and just to the right.

A single cast to each is usually enough to pass judgment. The spawning in Lilliput is usually good and there are usually too many fish competing for the food. That is why they tend to be small. That is why, if they see something that might be food, they grab it.

In a way, fishing in Lilliput is like fishing in childhood. All-beguiling and never a dull moment. But then, how would it not be like fishing in childhood? It was by the streams of Lilliput that most anglers grew up. It was Lilliput that stuck the stars in our eyes. I loved going back for those few sun-lit days. I plan a return visit, soon.



With the lushness of deep Dorset all about, fishing the Piddle is a joy. Despite the size of the stream, wading is often necessary

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It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

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SAILING: SHALLOT WINS GOLD ROMAN BOWL AFTER SLOW START

Moody masters world's largest yacht race

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THERE were more than 100 fewer boats than last year, but the world's largest yacht race, the 61st Hoya Round the Island Race, was still every bit as spectacular as 1,242 yachts in 41 classes took their chances in Mediterranean weather conditions on Saturday.

Last year, the strong and blustery northwesterly set up the opportunity for a new monohull record of 5hr 12min, claimed by Mike Slade's maxi *Hoya Longobarda*. This year, with lighter conditions and the breeze coming in from the north-east, record-breaking on the 50-mile course around the Isle of Wight was not on the cards.

However, for the first time since 1988, the fleet set off downwind, making for a colourful display as hundreds of spinnakers made their way down the Solent with the first of the ebb, out towards the Needles. Then it was a long and exhausting beat up the southern side of the island to St Catherine's Point and on to

Bembridge, before the yachts were freed as they headed back down to the finish off Cowes.

The overall winner on Channel Handicap, and winner of the Gold Roman Bowl, was the Class 12 mini-tonner, *Shallot*, a 23-foot Julian Everitt design skippered by Martin Moody, from Bursledon, Hampshire. Moody, who was sailing with

Results 35

Spencer Wright, Steve Laurie and Ian Lovering, bosun to the British Olympic team in Atlanta last year, said that he knew he was doing reasonably well once they started going to windward on the south shore of the island.

"It was slow to start with because there was very little wind, but, as we got to the Needles, we realised we had a chance of winning because we were among the bigger boats,"

he said. "From there it was just a case of pushing all the way."

Second overall in CHS was the 1955-vintage folk boat *Celia Mary*, skippered by Edward Donald, from London, who claimed the same prize four years ago in another folk boat, *Charlotte Sometimes*.

Among the other trophy winners was the 26-foot micro-multihull, *Orion*, skippered by Harvey Bowden, who, in only his second entry in the race, was first to finish in a time of 6hr 14min Sec to claim the Freedom Challenge Bowl.

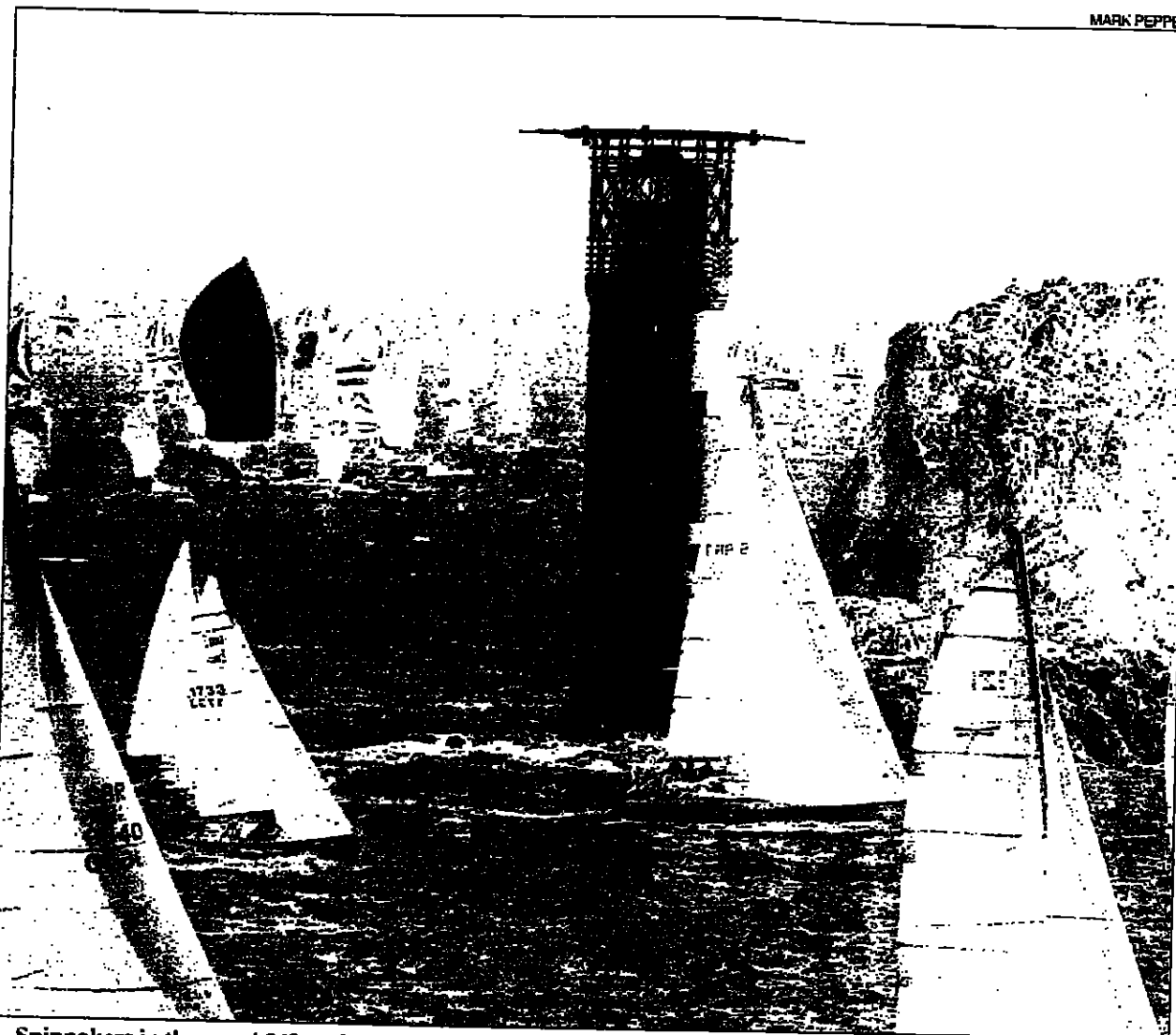
Hoya Longobarda, skippered by Eddie Warden-Owen, won the Observer Trophy for the first monohull to finish and Derek Waiter's successful first 4257 *Pointe North* won in CHS Class 1.

Among the more interesting competitors was Ellen MacArthur, giving her newly-acquired 6½-metre *Le Poisson* its first serious outing with Jez Fanstone as crew.

MacArthur, who is one of two Britons entering this year's Mini-Transat single-handed race, has been working feverishly at Hamble on limited funds to get the boat ready. Conditions were not ideal for the 21-foot "Mini" but she still managed to finish around thirtieth in the 300-strong Island Sailing Club Class 1.

"It was brilliant, absolutely brilliant," MacArthur, whose next appointment is the two-handed mini-Fastnet at the end of June, said. "The incredible thing was we were overtaking 35-40 footers — you lose track of how small the boat is doing that."

MacArthur's confidence in her boat and in her own ability to cross the Atlantic on her own at just 19 was endorsed by Fanstone, one of the key members of Laverie Smith's Silk Cut Whitbread crew, who took the day off to sail with her. "She'll have no problems," he said. "She's pretty well sorted already."



Spinnakers in the sun: 1,242 yachts competed in the Hoya Round the Island Race in Mediterranean conditions

Adela steals march for line honours

By EDWARD GORMAN

ADELA, the 173-foot schooner, was yesterday back at her mooring at the Pendennis Shipyard in Falmouth, where she was built in 1994, after taking line honours in the New York Yacht Club's Rolex Atlantic Challenge Cup.

Although chased most of the way from Sandy Hook by the gaff-rigged 193-foot schooner *Adix*, *Adela*, under the guidance of Steve Carson, stole a march on the rest of the fleet and made it to Falmouth early on Saturday evening.

The next yacht in was expected to be the 135-foot ketch *Sariyah*, with *Adix*, skippered by Paul Goss, behind her. The strong northeasterlies in the Atlantic have slowed the remaining yachts and contributed to an increasing list of retirements.

Of the 16 starters who set sail on May 17, only 11 are still racing. *Never Say Never*, the 100-foot Ron Holland cutter, has now given up with a cracked mast. *The Replica of America*, skippered by Paul Deeth, is so far behind the rest of the fleet that she has also retired, while a surprise addi-

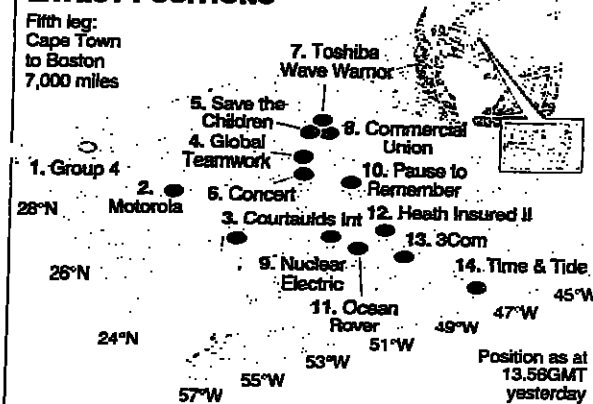
tion to the list is the 86-foot *Sapphire*, skippered by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston.

In the BT Global Challenge, meanwhile, progress towards Boston in the fifth and penultimate leg, has been slowed by light winds as the yachts continue up the Atlantic towards Bermuda. Mike Golding's *Group 4* remained in the lead yesterday, with a cushion of more than 100 miles to the second-placed *Motorola*, skippered by Mark Lodge.

Simon Walker, on *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, who was in second place overall at the start of the leg, a total of 22 hours behind, is back in seventh position, about 250 miles adrift, while Andy Hindley, on *Save The Children*, who held third place overall, is fifth.

On *Motorola*, the crew was celebrating moving up to second place on the western edge of the fleet. "Spirits are high as we race towards Boston," they reported. "With only 1,300 miles to go, *Group 4's* lead seems insurmountable but, with a little luck, who knows?"

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS



DISTANCE TO FINISH (at 13:56 GMT yesterday, with miles to Boston): 1. Group 4 1,119; 2. Motorola 1,248; 3. Courtaults International 1,350; 4. Global Teamwork 1,461; 5. Save the Children 1,455; 6. Concor 1,497; 7. Toshiba Wave Warrior 1,416; 8. Commercial Union 1,428; 9. Nuclear Electric 1,472; 10. Pause to Remember 1,475; 11. Ocean Rover 1,513; 12. Heath Insured II 1,543; 13. 3Com 1,582; 14. Time and Tide 1,690.

CYCLING

Dangerfield finally claims elusive title

By PETER BRYAN

STUART DANGERFIELD finally achieved one of his biggest ambitions yesterday when he won the blue riband of British cycling, the national 25-mile time-trial championship, at his ninth attempt.

Victory at Yarm, in North Yorkshire, was not handed to him on a plate, but came from a determination that did not show signs of bearing fruit until the last five miles. His ride showed all the tenacity that is the hallmark of the man he succeeds as champion, Graeme Obree.

Dangerfield's time of 51min 10sec was 22 seconds outside the course record held by Chris Newton, who was second yesterday, five seconds adrift. The pair had turned the trial into their own private contest by the halfway point, after which the riders ran into a nagging northeasterly wind, with conditions made even harder by the hilly terrain on the A19.

Dangerfield put his poor start down to a disturbed night at his hotel. "I felt dreadful when I started," he said, "but, as the miles went by, my legs began to feel

better." The news that he was 15 seconds down on Newton with five miles to go appeared to spur him. Whenever he could, he pushed hard into the wind, using a mammoth top gear of 128 inches.

Dangerfield is no stranger to championship success — he has won the national hill-climb title on four occasions since 1992. Still ranked by his non-selection for the 1996 world time-trial championship, he now hopes to be rewarded with a place in the Britain squad this year.

Later this month, to underline his claim, he competes in the British 50-mile championship and the Isle of Man trial over one lap of the 37½-mile TT circuit. Newton, named in Britain's team for the six-day Tour of Sweden starting on June 11, will then take six weeks off before returning to his base in France to prepare for the Tour de l'Avenir.

Sean Yates, the champion in 1980, finished fifth yesterday after being third fastest to the halfway point.

Results, page 35

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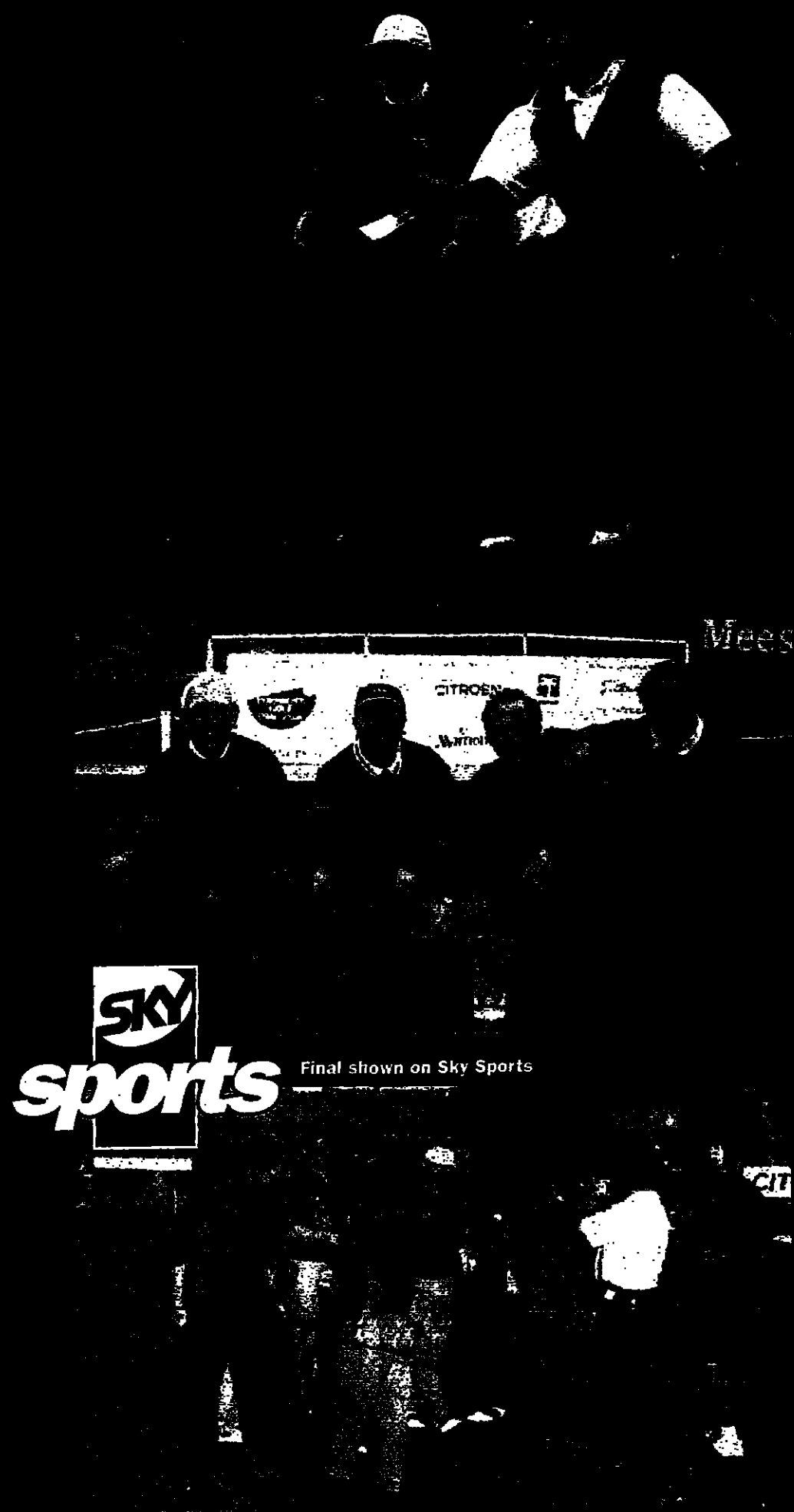
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Christian Dymond puts on his whites, picks up his mallet and asks if there is 'Anyone for croquet?'

Running through the hoops

SPORT FOR ALL

For a while last century, croquet attracted the kind of following that might have given it a regular place on television, had the technology existed. Then tennis came along and spoilt the party — the All England Croquet Club became the All England Tennis and Lawn Tennis Club in 1877 — and even after a croquet revival in Edwardian times, tennis maintained the upper hand.

During the past few years, though, croquet has made a remarkable comeback. About 400,000 people now play the game in all its forms: association croquet, golf croquet, short croquet (a shorter version of association croquet) and croquet at home in the garden. Golf croquet is a simplified form of the association game, involving two or four people playing alternate shots.

There are 130 clubs registered with the Croquet Association, which this year celebrates its centenary with an exhibition of memorabilia including equipment, trophies and photographs, now open in the museum of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club at Wimbledon.

Croquet is no longer the preserve, if it ever was, of old colonels and their bejewelled wives. Nor is it a game played solely on the lawns of large country houses. These and other myths the secretary of the Croquet Association, Paul Campion, is keen to dispel.

"It is a sport which attracts a large number of young people and one of the few games in which men and women of all ages can compete on equal terms," he said. Most internationalists are in their twenties and thirties. The world champion is Chris Clarke, 25, of England.

The most northerly club in England is at Belsay Hall, an English Heritage property in Northumberland where the spectacle of members in their white attire playing croquet in



Trotman says artificial surfaces are being considered for croquet because the drought is creating problems with lawns

Belsay's nationally renowned gardens makes for a perfect cameo of an English summer's day.

It was here that I learnt how to play association croquet, the most complex form of the sport and one which has two variations: in itself — the advanced version for better players and the handicap game enjoyed by everyone.

The idea of association croquet is for one side (either an individual or a pair) to run two balls through six hoops twice in a prescribed order and then to hit the centre peg. You can make use of your opponent's

croquet balls as much as you like to do this. It sounds simple enough but in reality I suspect you need the vision of a Beckenbauer and the skill of a Ken Doherty to be a champion.

The hoops are like door frames from Lilliput and getting a ball through one is no easy matter, such is the minimal clearance (a 16th of an inch) on either side. Belsay's club captain, Roger Peters, says that on extremely hot days the black ball can swell slightly, so adding to the difficulties.

The first hoop you encounter is always painted blue

along the top, the last one — red — is called Rover. At the end of each turn, you always attach a small clip (like a clothes peg) on to the hoop you are going for next. This clip is the same colour as the ball you are playing.

The first thing I tried to master was how to hold the mallet, then how to hit the ball in the right place — the "sweet spot" as John Grant, the chairman, described it. "Stand with your feet not too far apart, but far enough that you don't hit your ankles, which can be very painful," Liz Nisbet, a club member, said.

For my first game I opted for the yellow and red balls. Peters had the black and blue. Being heavily handicapped, I was awarded 12 bisques (extra turns) to take whenever I wanted, which was frequently.

At the start, all four balls had to be hit from a point one yard in from the boundary line. Next I chose to strike my red ball — but as the distance was too far to "run" (pass through) a hoop, I aimed it at Peters's black ball instead.

Hitting the black or "making a roquet" gave me an extra shot. I picked up my red ball, placed it touching the black and struck it again, aiming for a point in front of the hoop. This is the "croquet shot", which is followed by the "continuation shot".

That are common to golf, snooker and chess in that you need to know how hard to hit the ball, how to angle your shots and how to think several moves ahead. Brute force is not required. But patience most certainly is.

Belsay has two lawns but a number of clubs, such as Southwick near Brighton, have more. Derek Trotman, the chairman of both the Croquet Association's development committee and the northern federation of the Croquet Association, says artificial surfaces are being considered, mainly because the drought is creating so many problems with the maintenance of lawns.

Artificial lawns would also allow people to play through the winter, which would give a major boost to this rejuvenated sport.



EQUIPMENT is normally supplied when you join a club but if you want to buy your own the cost is mallet, £55-£150; balls, £90-£180 for set of four hoops, up to £170 for a set of six; pegs, from £15; a croquet set which includes all the above: £250-£2000.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

West had to be awake on this hand. The play revolved round endplaying the declarer.

| Dealer South | Game all | Match-pointed pairs |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠ 9843 ♥ A7432 ♦ 6 ♣ 982 | ♠ 1075 ♥ 105 ♦ A3 ♣ KQ854 | ♠ 1075 ♥ 105 ♦ A3 ♣ KQ854 |
| ♠ K6 ♥ KJ852 ♦ K852 ♣ AJ | ♠ AJ2 ♥ Q ♦ A10974 ♣ 1073 | |

| W | N | E | S |
|--|----------|------|----|
| 1H | All Pass | Pass | 1D |
| Contract: Two Diamonds by South. Lead: six of hearts | | | |

South had already achieved a good result by buying the contract in Two Diamonds, since East-West can make eight or nine tricks in a heart contract. He ran the six of hearts to his queen — West, having bid hearts, was likely to have the king; winning the ace of hearts would have given declarer little play for his contract. When the queen scored it made it impossible for the opponents to play hearts again without giving declarer access to the stranded ace.

Declarer ended with the ten of clubs which West won with the jack (the ace would have been better). Now West, Amanda Hawthorn, bridge author, teacher and regular at

Amersham Bridge Club, deduced that it was declarer who had the singleton heart, not her partner. If declarer had had two hearts he would have been playing on trumps. So she cashed the ace of clubs and played a diamond to the jack and queen. Declarer played the ace and the nine of diamonds but West played her king and gave declarer the lead with her last diamond. After cashing all the diamonds declarer played ace and another spade but West played the king under the ace and East had the rest of the tricks for a one-trick defeat.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

- GHEG
- a. Soured camel's milk
 - b. An Albanian
 - c. Ice hockey equipment

- FACULA
- a. Duplication
 - b. Latin translation
 - c. A sunspot

- GAMBALOCKE
- a. A bear hug
 - b. A musical form
 - c. An Eastern riding coat
- FAJA
- a. A kind of toffee
 - b. A sash or girdle
 - c. A Mexican festival

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Alarming opening

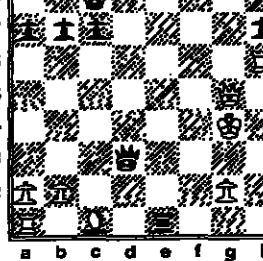
Nigel Short continues to score with the most amazing opening variations. In the Madrid tournament he has landed another direct hit with a discarded version of the King's Gambit where White's king wanders around the middle of a crowded board. Stunned by Short's unusual choice of opening, Black missed a draw with the beautiful variation Z2... Re2+ 23 Kg3 (or 23 Kg1) 23... Rxe2+ 24 Kxg2 Qe2+ with perpetual check.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Jerroen Piket
Madrid, May 1997

| King's Gambit | | | |
|---------------|-------|----|------|
| 1 e4 | e5 | 2 | Q5 |
| 2 f4 | exd4 | 3 | d4 |
| 3 Nf3 | Be7 | 4 | Nxd4 |
| 4 Nc3 | Bh4+ | 5 | Nb5 |
| 5 Ke2 | d5 | 6 | c4 |
| 6 Nxd5 | Nf6 | 7 | Nf3 |
| 7 Nxd5+ | Qd6 | 8 | Nc3 |
| 8 d4 | Bg4 | 9 | Bd3 |
| 9 Qd2 | Nc6 | 10 | O-O |
| 10 c3 | O-O-O | 11 | Rc1 |
| 11 Qd4 | Oe6 | 12 | Nc2 |
| 12 Kd3 | g5 | 13 | Nd5 |
| 13 Nxd5 | Bxg5 | 14 | Qd2 |
| 14 Qxg5 | h5 | 15 | h4 |
| 15 N3 | Nxd4 | 16 | Nd4 |
| 16 cxd4 | Rxd4 | 17 | Rd1 |
| 17 Rxd4 | Rd4+ | 18 | Qd5 |
| 18 Kf2 | Rd4 | 19 | Qh4 |
| 19 Rf5 | Rf8+ | 20 | Kg1 |
| 20 Kg1 | Rf1+ | 21 | Kd1 |
| 21 Kd1 | Re1+ | 22 | Kf2 |
| 22 Kf2 | Qe2+ | 23 | Kg3 |
| 23 Kg3 | Qd3+ | 24 | Kxg2 |

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Cousdon chess

Neil McDonald continues to lead in the international tournament in Cousdon.

White: Timmermans
Black: McDonald
Cousdon International, 1997

| Sicilian Defence | | | |
|------------------|------|----|------|
| 1 e4 | c5 | 2 | Nf3 |
| 2 Nf3 | Nc6 | 3 | d4 |
| 3 d4 | exd4 | 4 | Nxd4 |
| 4 Nxd4 | e5 | 5 | Nb5 |
| 5 Nb5 | d6 | 6 | c4 |
| 6 c4 | Be7 | 7 | Nf3 |
| 7 Nf3 | Qd6 | 8 | Nc3 |
| 8 Nc3 | Bg5 | 9 | Bd3 |
| 9 Bd3 | Bxg5 | 10 | O-O |
| 10 O-O | Bxc1 | 11 | Rc1 |
| 11 Rc1 | Ng6 | 12 | Nc2 |
| 12 Nc2 | Ng6 | 13 | Nd5 |
| 13 Nd5 | O-O | 14 | Qd2 |
| 14 Qd2 | Qh4 | 15 | h4 |
| 15 h4 | exd4 | 16 | Nd4 |
| 16 Nd4 | Qg5 | 17 | Rd1 |
| 17 Rd1 | Nd4 | 18 | Qd5 |
| 18 Qd5 | Qd5 | 19 | Qh4 |
| 19 Qh4 | Ne6 | 20 | Kg1 |
| 20 Kg1 | Bg4 | | |

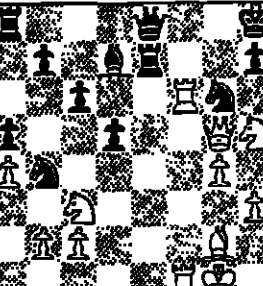
White resigns

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Palkovi — Boros, Hungary 1997. White's powerful concentration of force on the kingside gives him the opportunity for a quick kill. Can you see how?



Solution on page 46

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Mothven's, Murray Emerging Economies Trust, SDX Business Systems.
Finals: Filofax Group, Lanica Trust, Northumbrian Fine Foods, 600 Group, South Staffordshire Water, Wyndeham Press. **Economic statistics:** UK provisional M0 money supply (May), UK net new consumer credit (April), UK final M4 money supply (April), UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply purchasing managers survey (May), French unemployment (April), US personal income and spending (April), US construction spending (April), US National Association of Purchasing Managers Index for May.

TOMORROW

Interims: Apollo Metals, Crabtree, Hawtin, MEPC, Toy Options, Finals: Belhaven Brewery, Dairy Crest, De La Rue, Incepta Group, National Grid, Racal Electronics, Vodafone Group. **Economic statistics:** UK official reserves (May), BTM/Schroder weekly chain store data, US leading economic indicators for April, API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Bick, Heals, NCF, Warner Estate Holdings. **Finals:** Allied Colloids, British Energy, Caffyns, Dundee Enterprise, Greencore Group, Powerscreen International, Readcut International, Shanks & McEwan, Southern Electric. **Economic statistics:** UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply services sector index (May), US factory orders (April).

THURSDAY

Interims: Bradstock Group, Inspex Group. **Finals:** Aisprung Furniture, Boots, Hambro Insurance, Pilkington, Powell Duffryn, Railtrack, 3i Group. **Economic statistics:** UK new construction orders (April), UK CBI distributive trades survey (May), French provisional GDP (Q1), US weekly jobless claims.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. **Finals:** Park Food Group. **Economic statistics:** UK construction output (Q1).

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK



Railtrack on line for maiden 22p



Figures presented by Sir Robert Horton, chairman of Railtrack, will interest John Prescott

RAILTRACK: Maiden full-year figures on Thursday will no doubt provide further food for thought to John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, one of whose chores is to keep a beady eye on the transport industry.

NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £261 million to £305 million, while earnings are expected to grow by 15 per cent, from 44.4p to 51p.

Overall, the figures are expected to reflect a combination of improvements in operating performance, profitability and higher levels of investment. Better management will have seen internal costs and maintenance charges drop by up to 3 per cent per annum.

Shareholders should be rewarded with a 7 per cent increase in the dividend to 22p.

NATIONAL GRID: Brokers will pay close attention to full-year results tomorrow, which mark the last set of figures before the tougher new regulatory regime on pricing.

An 8 per cent increase in the dividend to 11.13p was forecast at the time of the group's flotation in 1995. The drop in pre-tax profits from £616.5 million to £591.6 million will also be largely factored in and reflects the new financial structure that will include the injected debt of the regional electricity companies and the loss of the pumped storage generation business.

The focus of attention now switches to the level of provisions required to make the group more efficient under the new regime. Brokers will also be looking for reduced losses from Energis, which topped £72.8 million in 1995-96.

BOOTS: The shares have been buoyed ahead of Thursday's full-year figures by reports that the group is contemplating a fresh share buyback operation.

Richard Ratner at Mees-Pierson says such a move is possible, but points out that after the last buyback, which saw the group spend more than £500 million, the price fell sharply and has taken a long time to make up

the lost ground. Even so, he is looking for a solid performance from the retailer this time round and is forecasting pre-tax profits of £535 million against £493 million in 1995. Earnings per share are also expected to grow from 34.4p to 39.2p. The figures will be marked by solid performances from retail and health care, while Halfords will have proved disappointing.

The payout should grow from 18.5p to 20.1p.

BRITISH ENERGY: These will be the first full results since the

company was floated last year and comparisons are difficult. But with output up by around 10 per cent, brokers are looking for maiden pre-tax profits on Wednesday of £60 million. That compares with the equivalent of a £155 million deficit the previous year. Earnings a share of 5.1p are forecast, compared with a loss of 22.1p previously. A dividend of 13.7p has been forecast.

RACAL ELECTRONICS: After a series of profit warnings brokers are braced for a profits downturn when the group re-

ports full-year figures tomorrow. At the pre-tax level NatWest is forecasting £55.5 million, a reduction of 15 per cent on the £65.5 million in the previous year, although Henderson Crosthwaite is looking for £60 million. Earnings will also be down from 14.8p to around 12.5p.

The setback is due to heavy losses at Racal's data products division and a loss-making second-half performance from Radio Communications. The payout should be pegged at 6p.

VODAFONE: By contrast, the

other half of the demerged group is expected to post a solid performance when it unveils full-year figures tomorrow. These should show pre-tax profits up from £467.9 million to £495 million, with earnings a share 7 per cent ahead at 10.7p.

The bulk of the improvement will be attributed to overseas growth, where revenues will be 45 per cent higher, and last year's operating loss of £27 million will be replaced by a profit of £15 million.

Shareholders should be amply rewarded with a 20 per cent rise in the dividend to 4.3p.

PILKINGTON: Full-year figures on Thursday came hard on the heels of last month's boardroom shake-up that saw the departure of Roger Leighton as chief executive. The results themselves are unlikely to contain much in the way of surprises, with brokers already forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits from £212 million to £130 million.

The deterioration in earnings will be even greater, down by 65 per cent from 13.9p to 5.1p. Demand in Europe should have remained steady, with the real problem stemming from pricing in the first quarter of 1997. It is hoped the dividend will be maintained at 5p.

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC: As one of the few remaining independent regional electricity companies, these full-year figures on Wednesday are expected to be overshadowed by the forthcoming Budget and the prospect of a windfall tax.

Southern is reputed to be one of the most efficient companies in the electricity industry, although brokers maintain there is still scope for improvement. The second review has led to a sharp fall in distribution profits, although costs will also be down.

Profits at the pre-tax level are likely to have receded by around £33 million, or 12 per cent, to £260 million, with earnings a share 10 per cent lower at 42.6p. Despite this the balance sheet remains strong and there should be scope for a 3 per cent rise in the payout to 21.5p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

First test for Brown vision

Gordon Brown's brave new world faces its first big test this week when the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee assembles on Thursday. There is still a great deal of uncertainty about how the new MPC will function, especially as the outside members have not been named. Most economists think the committee will hold back from raising rates until after the Budget, but the Bank might be tempted to demonstrate its independence by forcing through another quarter-point rate rise on Friday.

There is little other economic data in the UK this week, with only the monetary statistics today for the market to digest. MMS International, the economic forecasting company, predicts that M0 will have grown by 6.6 per cent in May, up from 6 per cent in April. Consumer credit is forecast to show growth of £1.1 billion, compared with £780 million in April.

In the US elation at the Federal Reserve Board decision to pass on a rate rise two weeks ago is wearing off and the market is becoming nervous ahead of the next meeting in a month. The crucial employment data for May is published on Friday and is expected to show the economy rebounding from a weak April. Non-farm payrolls are forecast to show strong growth of 210,000 compared with 142,000 in April, while hourly earnings are predicted to rise by 0.4 per cent, compared with April's 0.1 per cent fall.

In Germany the main focus will be on the row between the Government and Bundesbank over gold revaluation with Hans Tietmeyer, the bank's president, due to address the parliamentary committee exploring the subject on Thursday. Manufacturing data on Wednesday should show the real economy is beginning to improve. April manufacturing output figures are expected to show a rise of 0.4 per cent compared with 0.2 per cent in March. But unemployment is expected to tick higher after last month's fall.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy European Telecom, Dixons, M.L. Labs, Tamaris, Beaufort, Meggit, Cussins Property, Independent on Sunday, Buy Halifax, Claremont Garments, The Sunday Telegraph, Buy Medeva, Baldwin, Park Food, City Centre Restaurants, McLeod Russell, The Observer, Buy Zeneca, Sell Redland, The Mail on Sunday, Buy Plasmon, Merchant Retail Group, Sell Corporate Services Gp.

Budget web site calls the odds

By NATHAN YATES

COOPERS & LYBRAND, the accountancy firm, has started the race to predict the contents of the Chancellor's mini-Budget with a web site calling the odds on possible tax changes.

The budget racecard, which opens on the Internet today, offers poor odds on a wide range of tax reforms, and if correct the losing punters could include homeowners, shareholders and savers.

The card puts Labour's manifesto pledges such as the windfall tax and the abolition of relief on private medical insurance for the over-60s as racing certainties. These, with the cut in VAT on fuel to 5 per cent and the introduction of the welfare to work programme, are odds-on favourites at 1 to 5.

The racecard also backs the abolition or phasing-out of mortgage interest relief (Miras), and the restriction of relief on capital gains tax and inheritance tax. A cut in Advance Corporation Tax, which would hit non-taxpayers such as pension funds, is an equally strong runner. All of these measures could have a heavy impact on some individuals, and all are placed at odds of 2 to 1.

The reform of Tessa and Peps into an Individual Savings Account is a 3 to 1 bet, as are higher petrol excise duties. Worth a flutter at 4 to 1 is a 10 per cent starting rate of income tax, the restriction of pension tax relief to the basic rate and the widening of employee benefits in kind that are liable to

employers' National Insurance Contributions.

A two-tier capital gains tax, which would hit short-term gains, an alteration in income tax thresholds and increases in corporation tax, are quoted at 5 to 1.

In terms of personal tax, the outsiders are the removal of tax breaks on Venture Capital Trusts and the abolition of the married couples' allowance, though even these are only at 8 to 1 and 10 to 1 respectively. For businesses, 20 to 1 can be obtained on the introduction of a "green" tax, and 50 to 1 on a rise in insurance premium tax.

If the Coopers & Lybrand's racecard is to be believed, the Budget will be painful for many taxpayers. Peter Wyman, the head of tax,

believes his odds are fair. "The first Budget provides the Chancellor with the chance to put his stamp on the way the Government wants the economy to be run," he said. "The racecard can be found at <http://www.uk.coopers.com/tax/budgetracecard>.

ITC may split digital television licences

THE outcome of the race to win the right to broadcast digital TV in terrestrial form, a service that will make dozens of new channels available next year, will be announced by the Independent Television Commission as early as this week (Eric Reguly writes).

An announcement had been expected in late May, but difficulties in deciding which of the two bidders had the

superior proposal is thought to have delayed the process. Speculation is mounting that the ITC could split the licences between the two rivals.

The race pits the Digital Terrestrial Network, owned by NTL, a US cable company, against British Digital Broadcasting, a group owned by Carlton, Granada and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

Six ideas for Shell's Brent Spar platform

SHELL will today receive six proposals on how to rehabilitate its discarded Brent Spar oil platform (Oliver August writes).

Contractors have spent five months working on the details of the proposals, which were submitted and shortlisted at the start of this year.

The plans include using the platform as the foundation for a harbour quay in Norway and turning it into an

eco-friendly wind and wave power plant or an artificial reef. Shell originally received proposals from 19 leading offshore contractors and consortiums. The only one immediately rejected was an idea to bury the Brent Spar in the seabed. Shell has said that using the Brent Spar is preferable to disposal. Shell abandoned its plan to sink the structure after protests in the UK and in Germany.

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Agnostic approach to single currency urged



Pennant-Rea: adjustment plea

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRITAIN should pursue a strategy of "constructive agnosticism" towards a single currency although it faces formidable legislative and economic obstacles to joining monetary union early, a report published today argues.

The report, produced by a panel of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) chaired by Rupert Pennant-Rea, finds that Britain, unlike most other European countries, has made "virtually no moves forward" towards adopting the right policy framework for economic monetary union.

However, Mr Pennant-Rea, a former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, says the Government would be capable of prepar-

ing the ground for UK membership by early next century. He adds that even if Britain chooses to remain outside the single currency permanently, the Government will need to adjust its economic policies to take account of the impact of the arrival of monetary union.

The report is published as the dispute between the Bundesbank and the German Government over gold revaluation and the outcome of the French elections have threatened to derail the single currency project.

Bruce Kausman, European economist at JP Morgan, remains confident that EMU is still on course to start in 1999. In his latest economic outlook, published today, he argues that while France and Germany may have lost some near-

term political battles, "they still have the wherewithal to win the EMU war".

Mr Kausman also predicts that Europe has now passed the high point of fiscal restraint, prompted by the need to meet the Maastricht criteria, and is in for a period of looser fiscal policy led by tax cuts next year. He believes that GDP growth is set to average about 2.7 per cent across Europe over the coming three years.

The CEPR report, *The Ostrich and the EMU: Policy Choices Facing the UK*, argues that to join a single currency in 1999 would involve trying to hit "too many targets relative to the instruments" available to the Government.

The Government would need to establish full independence for the

Bank of England, synchronise the UK economic cycle with the rest of the EU, and significantly raise taxes to help to reduce the budget deficit and move towards running a budget surplus over the fiscal cycle.

The report says that it is likely to prove particularly difficult to hit a sensible exchange-rate level for joining a single currency before 1999. Early membership is also likely to prove a big stimulus to the economy, at a time when most economists fear that it will be overheating, as interest rates fall to the level of the rest of Europe and investors receive a big boost from a jump in gilt prices.

Mr Pennant-Rea also points to two necessary long-term adjustments needed to ensure the UK

economy functions successfully in a single currency. The structural impact of interest rate changes will need to be altered because, at present, interest rate moves have a much faster impact on the UK than the rest of Europe, making the country's economy more volatile.

The Government will need to encourage the use of more fixed debt, including the abolition of mortgage interest rate relief, to bring the UK into line with the rest of Europe. The Government will also have to improve the automatic measures of "fiscal stabilisation" as it will no longer control the levers of monetary policy. The report concludes that this will entail a significant tightening in fiscal policy in order to run a budget surplus and allow the flexibility to increase

the deficit in periods of economic downturn without breaking the 3 per cent deficit target.

But even if the UK stays out of a single currency, the UK will remain indirectly bound by the inflation and deficit targets of the single currency area and will need to take these into account in its making of economic policy to avoid a run on the country's assets. The report adds that Britain must be viewed as a "sympathetic out", committed to greater economic integration, rather than appearing to want only the benefits of the single market without sharing the obligations of single currency. If the UK pursued purely its own strategy it was likely to find itself increasingly discriminated against by the other European countries.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

| 1997 High | Low | Mid cap (million) | Price pence | Wtd +/- | Yld % | P/E | 1997 High | Low | Mid cap (million) | Price pence | Wtd +/- | Yld % | P/E | 1997 High | Low | Mid cap (million) | Price pence | Wtd +/- | Yld % | P/E | 1997 High | Low | Mid cap (million) | Price pence | Wtd +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|-------------|---------|-------|------|-----------|------|-------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-----|-----------|------|-------------------|-------------|---------|-------|------|-----------|-------|-------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-----|
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
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| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7 | +12 | 6.7 | 62.2 | 50.2 | 8.51 | 82.2 | -2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 127.2 | 119.2 | 20.90 | 125.2 | -1 | 0.1 | |
| 139.2 | 100.0 | 11.80 | 117.7 | +5 | 5.5 | 10.2 | 117.7 | 84.2 | 6.24 | David Glass | 115.7</ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Blair 'set to clinch deal on military aircraft'

By Oliver August

TONY BLAIR, the Prime Minister, is believed to be negotiating a deal with the German Government that will secure the future of the UK's two foremost military aircraft developments and create 57,000 jobs.

Under the deal, expected to be concluded on Friday, the £45 billion Eurofighter and the Future Large Aircraft (FLA), a military transport aircraft, would get approval.

The deal would break a year-long logjam. Hitherto, the German Government has failed to sign up to the Eurofighter and the UK Ministry of Defence has been reluctant to commit itself to the Airbus-built FLA.

The two countries' defence ministers will meet on Wednesday and could prepare the ground for an announcement on Friday. Insiders believe that a go-ahead before the Paris air show, which takes place a week later, would give the two governments a political boost. Both governments

have come under intense pressure from manufacturers and unions to fully approve the two aircraft programmes.

According to British Aerospace, a partner on both aircraft, the FLA would create 35,000 jobs across Europe and the Eurofighter 250,000. About 20 per cent of these jobs would be created in Britain.

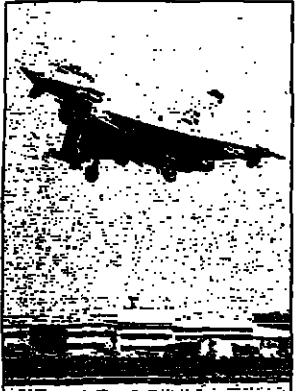
The Defence Ministry ordered 232 Eurofighters last year, but its military transport requirement is at least partly met by Hercules C130 aircraft.

Bae said: "An FLA go-ahead would clearly be of great value to us. There is an enormous market in the next 15 years to replace the C130. There is strong potential for export beyond the initial European launch customers."

In addition to the jobs boost, Bae and other UK subcontractors would also profit from the new skills and technology associated with the launch of the FLA.

Germany and France, the other main FLA partner, have been campaigning to win UK approval for the FLA. Gunter Simon, the German defence procurement chief, said that every day of delay was a danger to the FLA's future.

A go-ahead for the FLA programme would include a \$100 million work package, known as pre-launch activity. While European governments procrastinated on an FLA decision over the past two years, the defence companies involved under the Airbus umbrella spent \$300 million to keep the programme going.



Eurofighter: jobs boost

Time for Gordon Brown to spread a little gloom



ROGER BOOTLE

The words "mini budget" conjure up images of old Labour and financial crises, more redolent of 1970s gloom than the sunny first few months of new Labour. Yet in the mini budget, which we expect in a few weeks, Gordon Brown must be prepared to spread gloom by raising taxes.

The reason is well-known by now — the need to correct a sharp imbalance in the economy. The problem is simply that consumers are having too good a time. There is an easy treatment on offer — higher interest rates. The trouble is that this is the sort of physic which treats one part of the body at the cost of causing painful side-effects to another. For, while consumer spending needs some restraint, manufacturing industry is in the doldrums. Most of its problems can be traced to the excessively strong pound. If interest rates are raised further, the pound will remain at current levels, or be pushed even higher.

There is also a European aspect to this argument. Suppose we eventually opt to join EMU. Our interest rates are already double the German level. If we are to avoid the consequences of a sharp drop in rates on joining EMU, then we should aim to re-align to a policy which can responsibly permit lower interest rates. This means higher taxes.

But if we stay out of EMU, or if it is delayed, there is the danger of a further sterling surge. For the Bank to be able to counter this with lower interest rates, consumer

spending will have to be well under control.

Of course, it is impossible to hit exactly the right policy when economic developments are so uncertain. But Mr Brown should ask himself what harm would befall the economy if it proved that he had tightened fiscal policy too much. He would land up with a super-low, or even negative, public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR), and the scope for lower interest rates and a weaker pound. Would this be a bad thing?

What stands against higher taxes are three weak arguments — two economic and one political. Some economists argue that there is no need to raise taxes because the PSBR is falling fast.

But the essential argument for higher taxes is not fiscal but economic, namely the need to redress the imbalance in the economy. Yet even purely fiscal terms it would be short-sighted to over-emphasise the current borrowing numbers. The recent improvements come after some disappointingly high figures. It is only four years since the deficit was running at £45 billion. Given that the economy is in a strong

recovery phase, the PSBR should be low and falling.

The second economic argument is that fiscal policy should not be used for so-called fine-tuning. But raising taxes now does not necessarily mean tinkering with tax rates in a way that may subsequently be reversed. Rather, Mr Brown should correct anomalies and restructure the system in a way which makes medium-term sense. The abolition of mortgage interest tax relief is an obvious example. The existence of this relief owes nothing to economic sense and everything to political expediency. If it were abolished it would certainly not be reintroduced.

The political argument is quite simply that Labour won the general election pledging not to increase the standard or higher rates of tax, and sharply criticising the Conservatives for promising lower taxes then promptly increasing them "22 times". If Labour were to increase them now it would squander a massive amount of public goodwill and support.

It would be depressing in the extreme if this argument won the day. In 1990-92, the Conservatives lost control of spending and borrowing and their policies contributed to a very deep recession. Having sold themselves as the party of low taxes, they were then forced to raise them at precisely the time that people were reeling from the effects of the recession.

If Mr Brown raised taxes now it would be in the midst of consumer strength, not in the teeth of the recession. It would not be to fund increased spending — a return to old Labour tax-and-spend policies — but to reduce borrowing. It would be made necessary not by Labour's mistakes but by the Conservatives'. In these circumstances, voters are unlikely to feel betrayed in the way

that they did after 1992. More fundamentally, if the Government were to balk at taking the right course of action for fear of voter reaction it would be a betrayal of a deeper sort of trust.

If a Government cannot do the right thing now, having just won a mandate that will probably last for two full terms, and operating with a massive parliamentary majority, when can it? Failure to act now could mean a worse fate later, including leaving interest rates to the mercy of Eddie George and the inflation hawks at the Bank, thereby risking the economic recovery and all of Labour's hopes.

The source of the Conservatives' recent economic success, namely a competitive pound, had to be foisted upon them by our exit from the ERM. Mr Brown should choose this himself without having it thrust upon him later by the markets. The Government can witter on about jobs initiatives and sustainable growth until the cows come home, but in the end it will do no good whatever if they get this macro issue wrong.

Every new Chancellor is an unknown quantity. So far Mr Brown has impressed nearly everyone by his boldness and decisiveness. Yet the forthcoming Budget presents Mr Brown with his supreme test, even though it comes so early in his Chancellorship. Will he grasp the nettle on tax or shy away from it? From this decision shall we know him.



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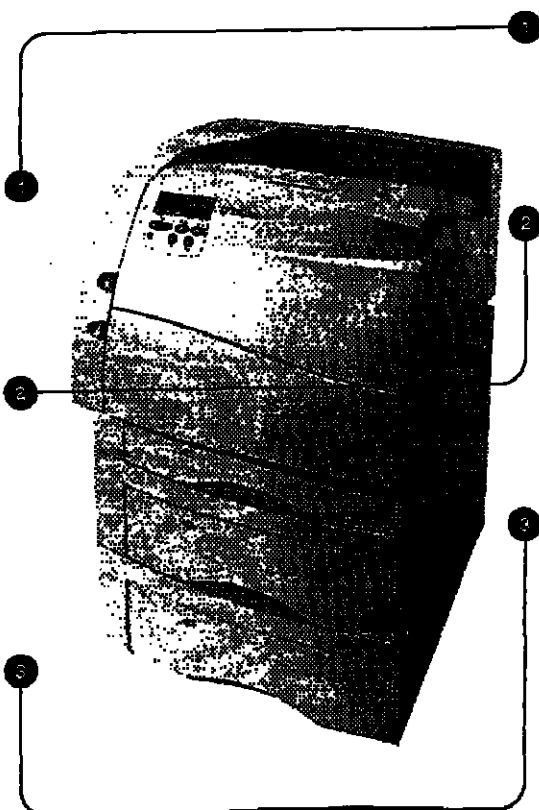
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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6375 (+0.0075)
 German mark 2.7913 (+0.0356)
 Exchange index 99.3 (+1.2)
 Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2971.5 (-31.5)
 FTSE 100 4621.3 (-40.5)
 New York Dow Jones 7331.04 (-14.87)
 Tokyo Nikkei Ave 20068.81 (+59.81)

Scottish Media framing £100m Grampian bid

SCOTTISH MEDIA, the owner of Scottish Television, confirmed that it will bid about £100 million this month for Grampian Television, the small ITV company based in Aberdeen (Eric Reguly writes).

The Barclay brothers, owners of the *Scottsman* and *Sunday*, were thought potential suitors, but Scottish Media is considered the only logical buyer because it can slash costs by combining the two ITV operations. Scottish Media will probably offer 320p a share against Grampian's Friday close of 265p.

There is also speculation that Granada is to bid for the 73 per cent of Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television that it does not already own.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 39

GREG

(b) A people of Northern Albania; a member of this people, also their language. Byron, *Childe Harold*: "Though they have some cavalry amongst the Ghegden, I never saw a good horseman." P. Driscoll, *White Lie Assignment*: "My method has kept me safe for twenty years against stupid Ghegs like him."

FACULA

(c) One of the bright or luminous spots or streaks on the surface of the sun, as distinguished from the dark spots or maculae. Lord Kelvin, *Astronomical Outlines*, 1858: "Streaks more luminous than the rest called Faculae."

GAMBALOCKE

(c) An Oriental riding coat. G. Sandys, 1625: "A man of small stature, clothed in a gambalocke of scarlet buttoned under the chin." Blount, 1674: "Gambalocke used in the Eastern countries about Damascus."

FAJA

(b) A Mexican sash. H. S. Merriman, *Kadar's Tents*, 1897: "About his person in the form of handkerchief and faja were touches of bright colour." Discovery, 1931: "The faja may be worn by either men or women, according to style and design."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rg6! bxc6 (1... Qxc6 2 Qxc7 2 Nf6 Qf8 3 Qh4+ Kg7 4 Qh7 checkmate)

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Australia \$ | 2.28 | 2.28 |
| Austria Sch | 20.53 | 18.59 |
| Belgium Fr | 60.41 | 35.78 |
| Canada \$ | 2.373 | 2.138 |
| Denmark Kr | 0.371 | 0.284 |
| Deutsche M | 11.15 | 10.33 |
| France Fr | 6.55 | 5.50 |
| Germany Dm | 2.25 | 2.21 |
| Grassland Dr | 470 | 435 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 13.42 | 12.29 |
| Ireland P | 1.27 | 1.07 |
| Italy Lit | 5.49 | 5.24 |
| Japan Yen | 2.24 | 2.10 |
| Netherlands Gld | 0.659 | 0.632 |
| New Zealand \$ | 2.34 | 2.30 |
| Norway Kr | 12.15 | 11.21 |
| Portugal Esc | 205.48 | 273.00 |
| Spain Ptas | 166.64 | 7.10 |
| Sweden Kr | 24.50 | 20.00 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.45 | 2.36 |
| Taiwan Nts | 220.70 | 212.59 |
| USA \$ | 1.736 | 1.603 |

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Silence is golden in world of the computer calamity

Tony Collins
on the hidden
cost of failed
schemes to
computerise
services

When a dark-suited businessman collapsed on a dusty, crowded platform at West Croydon railway station, fate could not have chosen a worse place and time to strike. For this was 1992 when the capital's ambulance service was implementing an enterprising new computer system.

The aim of the project had been to fully automate and speed up the process whereby ambulances are dispatched to an emergency. Unfortunately for the businessman, the systems had been built within the constraints of an under-estimated budget and an overly demanding deadline. Yet the systems were representative of those commissioned in the private sector.

As the quivering figure lay on the concrete platform, one man ran to the station lobby where there was a bank of public telephones. He rang "999" and an operator answered promptly. "Ambulance... quickly, please," begged the man.

"Just putting you through," said the operator. The phone rang twice, stopped and went silent; then... "Your call is in a queue. Please hold the line. We will answer you as soon as possible. Please be ready to give details of your exact location." It was a recorded message that continued for several minutes.

Incredulous that Britain's capital city would divert its "999" calls to an answerphone, the man left the receiver off the hook and used an adjacent phone. A minute later each of the telephone receivers was on the top of their coin boxes, surreptitiously repeating automated messages at each other. A call using a third phone was also answered by tape. The man was not to know that the London Ambulance Service's new computer system had reduced staff to a state of ineffectual despair.

Although the ambulance never arrived the businessman recovered from his epileptic seizure. Others in the capital urgently needing an ambulance did not fare so well. Public service unions alleged later there had been several deaths as a result of delays in reaching hospital because London Ambulance Service's new computer systems had failed to call out ambulances in time. No link between the system's under-performance and the deaths was ever proved.

However, the repeated failures of the new systems led to the resignations of the service's chief executive and chairman. Yet neither of them, by general computer project management standards, was particularly culpable. To some extent they were victims of a widespread ignorance over the specific early warning signs of a computer disaster. This ignorance has nothing to do with a failure to acquire knowledge, more an inability to acquire such information even if it is sought.

Even in the computer industry, authentic testimonies on the specific causes of computer



Computerising the ambulance call-out system in London was fraught with difficulty

calamities are scarce. The reason is an obvious and understandable one: chief executives and their directors would rather not own up to their mistakes.

Even in polite company there are rarely any discussions about the exact events that led to a disaster. It is as if senior executives view technology failures as they would a close relative who has been permanently confined to a mental institution.

In some cases, where journalists have obtained some details of problems at particular sites, they have been threatened with legal action. Similar sensitivities hide some of the specific details of government computer mistakes. The result of all this collective embarrassment over technology failures is that the generalised guidance that is available to chief executives and senior management on disaster-avoidance can prove difficult to apply to new, seemingly boutique projects.

Inevitably, then, when commissioning multimillion-pound systems, chief executives

often plunge unknowingly into the same management pitfalls that have already ensnared their peers.

It is a very different picture to the one painted by industry icons such as Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, who frequently talks of the wonders of computers. By totalling the information technology disasters since 1980, as we have done in our book, *Crash*, one

can see that, in the public sector alone, billions of pounds have been spent by UK taxpayers on seriously flawed or abandoned projects.

Exactly how much has been lost in the private sector is unknown but the Standish Group, the independent market researcher, has estimated that two thirds of computer projects fail in one year in the US. \$81 billion was lost on aborted computer projects.

So what are the common causes? *Crash* lists ten "deadly

sins" which are themes that recur in most, if not all, disasters. The first is overambition. Typically this means under-estimating the cost and over-estimating the benefits. For example Parliament was told that integrated computerisation of welfare benefits would cost UK taxpayers £713 million. When MPs expressed scepticism about the figure, they were told by senior civil servants that, if anything, the costs would decrease as computer prices fell. In fact the systems ended up costing £2.6 billion. And

the promised 20,000 staff cuts never materialised. Today a further £1 billion needs to be spent to realise the benefits of integrated welfare systems.

As with many computer projects, the welfare systems would have been judged a success if the anticipated benefits, at the beginning, had been halved and the costs calculated to the last penny and then tripled. The problem with doing such a calculation is that many projects would not be started if the real costs were

known at the outset. Arguably, however, it would be better to anticipate the real costs than to learn of them only when millions have been spent and the project must be aborted because funds have run out.

A further danger area is the tailoring of a proven software package. For example the London Stock Exchange sought to modify a US software package for the UK market but this led to regular exchanges of computer specialists between the supplier's offices in New York and the exchange in London. At one point it seemed that most of the project's computer programmers were at 35,000ft over Nova Scotia.

One of the clearest messages from case studies is that new technology should not be left entirely in the hands of the technologists. Often disasters happen because chief executives who are in the best position to judge the progress of a scheme because they know nothing about computers, fail to intervene because they know nothing about computers.

An equal and opposite danger is the chief executive who knows too much about computers: the IT visionary.

There are also disasters caused by systems that have worked too well. For example the book distribution company Tiptree took 27 years to build up its reputation to become British Book Awards Distributor of the Year.

But it took only seven weeks, after problems with its computerised warehouse system, to become "probably the worst" distributor in the country. The systems worked perfectly but they were utterly unforgiving of human error. Once the Tiptree staff had incurred information into the systems, minor problems began to snowball. The problems were eventually resolved (at a price) and today Tiptree has a model system, which corroborates the theory that computer disasters can be a positive exercise if the business world learns from them.

Indeed, it is also useful to dissect the reasons for a project's successful implementation. Barclays Bank's Customer System was a success partly because senior management lowered the expectation of end-users.

Buckingham Palace's Royal Household is a model computer user. In the past some of the Queen's computer staff have complained that, as titular head of the Royal Household, she displays every quality of the perfect leader of a computer project — she is unadventurous, unexcitable and moves slowly but purposefully towards achieving a clear business objective through the use of computers.

The same could not be said for organisations such as Wessex Regional Health Authority, which set itself an ambitious target for how much it wanted to spend on computers — then dreamed up a vision for a computer project that allowed the spending target to be achieved. The authority lost between £43 million and £63 million on its computer contracts, though strangely all those involved went on to receive promotions, large severance payments, political honours or enjoyed other financial success.

□ Tony Collins, editor of *Computer Weekly*, and David Bicknell, are the authors of *Crash*, to be published by Simon and Schuster, £20.

A bellyful of bargains

Dosh
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Adam Faith returns with another slice of streetwise wisdom on making money and sussing out bargains. Some of the material is on the stale side. Like the cheese a woman bought from Sainsbury's, though she got a replacement delivered to her door and a £10 voucher. Moral: do not just ask for your money back, demand compensation as well. But the tale of the man who filled his car with bananas to take advantage of a Tesco special offer has been told too often. Perhaps the most useful item is the advice to a young couple on furnishing their new home. It is surprising what you can pick up cheap when you know where to go. Faith and his team are also right in their return to the great pensions scandal, not Maxwell but the many thousands of people persuaded to leave good company schemes for bad personal ones.

The Peter Principle
BBC1, 8.30pm

A new office sitcom arrives with traditional ingredients: incompetent boss, smart deputy and an assortment of lazy and dim-witted staff. This could almost be a rerun of Simon Nye's *Is It Legal?* except that the workplace is not a solicitor's office but a high street bank. But if the formula is familiar, the three writers, Mark Burton, John O'Farrell and Dan Patterson, do their best to bring it up fresh. In doing so they draw on the mechanics of farce, with, in this opening episode, a Valentine card delivered to the wrong person launching a series of embarrassed misunderstandings and tapping a rich vein of sexual innuendo. The result is, by no means unfunny, particularly as the glibbing bank manager is played by Jim Broadbent and his number two by the equally splendid Claire Skinner.

Absolutely Animals
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The challenge for the cheery young vet Mark Evans at the start of the new series is an eight-year-old Burmese cat called Minton, which is breaking into houses and stealing fluffy toys. The children of Tunbridge Wells, if not disgusted, are extremely upset at the loss of their favourite teddies.



Broadbent and Skinner (8.30pm, BBC1)

and bunnies. But count on Mark to come with an ingenious solution. The show's budget is stretched rather further to send the co-presenter Wendy Turner to Florida for a piece about dogs that can sniff out skin cancer on the human body. They have even discovered a melanoma which a biopsy missed. The abrupt switch from the trivial to the potentially momentous is thoroughly typical of an all-embracing magazine which is delivered in a breezy style and packs a lot into its 25 minutes.

The Good Life
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The title of this two-part documentary by a reliable name in the field, Malcolm Brinkworth, needs a question mark. The subjects are people who have left the city for the country to find a more congenial way of life. None of the three couples featured tonight has walked into a disaster, though the rural existence has proved tougher than they thought. All are glad to have left the noise and pollution for a cleaner, fresher environment and agreeable scenery. But taking on a farm means 4.00am starts for Roger Withnell, a former IBM executive, while the Reynolds family bravely acquire a goats' cheese business which is operating at well below break-even point. Closest to self-sufficiency are the Nashes. They even generate their own electricity. But this is deceptive. His arthritic back means having to rely on invalidity benefit.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Monday Play: Fond Memories
Radio 4, 7.45pm

False memory syndrome, now called suppressed memory syndrome, has been known to psychiatrists for some years but only in recent times has the subject attracted controversy. This drama is not a polemic for one point of view or the other but it does express the issues, using the relationship between a father (Michael Jayston), and his daughter (Eve Matheson), who during therapy uncovers a memory of sexual abuse as a child. The issue of the drama is the same as the real-life one: are these memories real, or are they planted, however unwittingly, by the therapist? The consequences of getting such charges wrong are obvious, for nothing taints an adult quite so much as child abuse. The writer is Jim Hitchmough.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session. Includes a session from Radiohead 7.00am Chris Squire 7.30 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Laycock 9.00 Big Band Special 10.30 Richard Allison 12.00am Adrian Finghan 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 1.00pm Debbie Rowe 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 Chris Squire 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Laycock 9.00 Big Band Special 10.30 Richard Allison 12.00am Adrian Finghan 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports 8.00 Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine, with Diana Madill 12.00 Midday with Mark, includes at 12.45pm Moneycheck with Paul Lewis 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide, with Julian Worwood 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Different Strokes. Pat Murphy talks to former Middlesex spinner Phil Edmunds (24) 8.00 Parkinson on Sport 9.00 Tales of the Turf. See Choice 8.30p Work Out 11.00 News Extra with Jeremy Vine 12.00 After Hours with Tim Grundy and Janice Long 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Cranston 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Arnie Asquith 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dillon

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Schubert's String Quartet, Op 59, Locatelli Concerto in F, Op 7 No 4; Lars-Erik Larsson (Pastoral Suite), Haydn (Concerto in G for Two Lyres); Debussy (Dance Sacree et Danse des Ondes); Schostakovich (Op 38) 9.00 Morning Collection. Peter Hooton continues a survey of the Mozart piano sonatas. Includes Vaughan Williams (English Folk Song Suite), Mozart (Piano Sonata in D, K294); Haydn (Sonata in G, Op 13) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Piers Burton-Page. Bach (Sheep May Safely Graze); Nielsen (Overture: Maskarade); Leclair (Prelude); Beethoven (Sonata for Piano and Violin); Liszt (Transcendental Study No 9 in F sharp minor, Epic Song); Dvorak, reconstituted (Cello Sonata, Op 22); Horowitz (Erdynyoni); Mendelssohn (Scherzo); Ernest Bennett (String Trio); Alan Richardson (Scherzo) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Dvorak Abroad 1.00pm News: BBC Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Includes: Mendelssohn (String Quartet in D, Op 44 No 1), Beethoven (String Quartet in F, Op 135) Performed by the Garmen Quartet 2.05 The BBC Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth. With Yaelna Kameus, mezzo, Mahler (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen); Shostakovich (Symphony No 7) 3.45 Jazz à la Lee. In the third part of the series profiling the legendary jazz singer Peggy Lee, Mel Hill analyses Lee's unique vocal style and illustrates its flexibility in interpreting material from Cole Porter to Liber and Stoller

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farm Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Letters from Over Here. In the third of four programmes the former American ambassador to London, Raymond Seitz, reflects on the British obsession with roundabouts 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests 10.00 News: Dear Diary (FRI). An account by Liz Crow, a disabled woman who received unorthodox treatment at a clinic in Mexico (29) 10.00 Daily Service (LW) A service from St Columba's Church in Gairloch, Co Donegal 10.15 On This Day (LW) June 2, 1947 10.30 Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray. Includes an interview with the writer Anthea Roy, whose first novel, *The God of Small Things*, has won a record advance 11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444. Personal finance news with Vincent Dugganley 12.00 News: You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm Brain of Britain. The first round of the nationwide general knowledge quiz, chaired by Robert Robinson, reaches the north of England 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Diamonds, by John Peacock. The final part of the trilogy of radio plays charting the journey of diamond. With Carolyn Jones, Ian Masters and Janet Maw 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor. Includes Simon Evans's attempt to get recognition for the world's shortest play

Tales of the Turf
Radio 5 Live, 9.00pm

This series about horse racing has brought to life a sport which many people regard as a mere vehicle for gambling. This programme will fascinate anyone who enjoys a good yarn and telly must be a polemic for one point of view or the other but it does express the issues, using the relationship between a father (Michael Jayston), and his daughter (Eve Matheson), who during therapy uncovers a memory of sexual abuse as a child. The issue of the drama is the same as the real-life one: are these memories real, or are they planted, however unwittingly, by the therapist? The consequences of getting such charges wrong are obvious, for nothing taints an adult quite so much as child abuse. The writer is Jim Hitchmough.

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Times of Nature 7.30 Omnibus 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Vintage Chart Show 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Youth Update 10.05 World Business 10.15 Victims of Reality 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Omnibus 12.30pm Jazznet 1.05 World Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsday 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Pop Science 4.05 Sport 4.15 On Your Mark! 4.30 World Today 6.00 Europe Today 6.30 World Business 6.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 Seven Days 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 Countdown 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitask: Hit List 8.00 Newsday 10.05 World Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Danger Squad 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitask: Hit List 1.30 Keep to the Path Through Europe 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Seven Days 2.45 A Private View 3.30 On Screen 4.05 World Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Radcliffe 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Hall of Fame Hour 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Classic Concerto 2.00 James Clegg 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sonoma 8.00 Concert Elgar (Forsyth, Op 19); Sospini, Op 70; Cello Concerto in E minor, Op 85; Four Danes. Variations on an Original Theme. Enigma, Op 36; Pomp and Circumstance March No 1 in D major, Op 39; 10.00 Michael Hoppin 2.00am Lunchtime Concerto (1)

VIRGIN RADIO

8.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Henry 6.00 Mike Coy (24) 7.00 Robin Raps (24) 10.00 Mark Ferriss 2.00am Richard Porter

Absolutely Animals: Tonight 8.30

Feathered, furry and
four-legged friends

4

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 908. WORLD SERVICE, MW 682, LW 188 (12.45-1.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8, MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1069. Gregory and John McNamara.


ROGER BOOTLE 45

Why Brown should raise taxes in the Budget

BUSINESS

EMERGENCY 46

Counting the costs of computer failure



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JUNE 2 1997

Gencor plans London mining float as part of £5bn demerger

By ADAM JONES

GENCOR, the South African mining giant, is considering a £5 billion-plus demerger involving the flotation of a new mining company on the London Stock Exchange.

Gencor, which has a market value of about £4.6 billion, is thought to be looking to raise between £600 million and £1.2 billion of new capital in the float. It is expected to retain the precious metals

businesses within its Johannesburg listing, with the base metals side transferring to a London vehicle large enough to be included in the FT-SE 100 index.

The flotation, whose financial advisers include Robert Fleming, the London securities house, may start this month.

Gencor admitted yesterday that it was investigating a number of transactions to improve its access to international capital markets to fund major projects in South Africa, Mozambique, Latin America and

Australia. South African companies are still constrained by currency controls. The company said: "The initiative has a number of hurdles that still have to be overcome, and has not yet been approved by the Gencor board. Shareholders are therefore advised to exercise caution in their dealings of the company's shares."

The South African mining industry has been subject to a flurry of activity recently, with the proposed merger of JCI and Lonrho and empowerment initiatives

transferring ownership from whites to blacks.

Gencor was formed by the merger of General Mining and the Union Corporation. In 1993, Gencor, then a broad conglomerate, unbundled the bulk of its industrial activities to concentrate on mining and mineral activities. It bought Billiton, the minerals company, from Royal Dutch Shell for more than \$1 billion in 1994. The heavily-gearred purchase met with scepticism but Billiton's

better-than-expected performance, helped by rising aluminium prices, enabled the early restructuring of debt.

A new UK-listed company would probably be built around Billiton, and is likely to have a listing in Johannesburg. It should include Gencor's stake in the Richards Bay iron and titanium operation, and nickel-mining and coal activities. Alusef, an aluminium company that last year became a wholly-owned subsidiary, is another likely component.

Gencor made a profit before exceptional items of just over 1 billion rand (£139 million) in the six months to December 31. Brian Gilbertson, executive chairman of Gencor, has clearly signalled his intention to move away from domestic gold production to create a more international group. Last year, a merger between the platinum interests of Gencor and Lonrho, in which it retains a 27 per cent stake, was over-ruled by the European Commission for duopoly reasons.

Brussels seeks wider powers over jobs

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRUSSELS is proposing far-reaching extensions of Europe's powers over jobs in new plans for employment tabled for this month's special EU summit.

Confidential proposals expected to be agreed at the summit in Amsterdam, which have been seen by *The Times*, give wide-ranging powers to Brussels to enforce employment decisions in each EU member state — including Britain.

The draft version of the "employment chapter" of the treaty on the future of the European Union, which is likely to be signed at Amsterdam, proposes a detailed mechanism under which member states will have to put into practice new proposals on employment from the European Commission, and will have to account annually for their implementation.

The unpublished employment chapter proposes a significant extension of European qualified majority voting (QMV) under which no individual EU member can veto a proposal. New measures brought forward under the employment chapter would be approved under QMV.

While the employment chapter itself puts forward no specific new initiatives on jobs, Eurosceptics and some busi-

ness leaders will see close parallels between the mechanisms it is proposing and the original social chapter of the 1992 Maastricht treaty, which the Amsterdam treaty will amend.

The UK Government is ready to agree to the proposed employment chapter at the EU summit on June 16 and 17. With only Germany opposed, ministers and officials believe that Amsterdam is likely to see the chapter agreed. Once ratified by the UK Parliament, the new treaty — including its employment chapter — would become law in Britain.

The jobs chapter commits EU member states to work towards a "co-ordinated strategy for employment", and says that member states "shall regard promoting employment as a matter of common concern". The draft document makes clear that the issue of jobs will now be applied to all EU matters: "The objective of a high level of employment shall be taken into consideration in the formulation and implementation of Community policies."

While this element alone of the proposed treaty gives Brussels very broad powers to apply the question of jobs to all economic and other EU policies, the draft treaty chapter on employment goes further

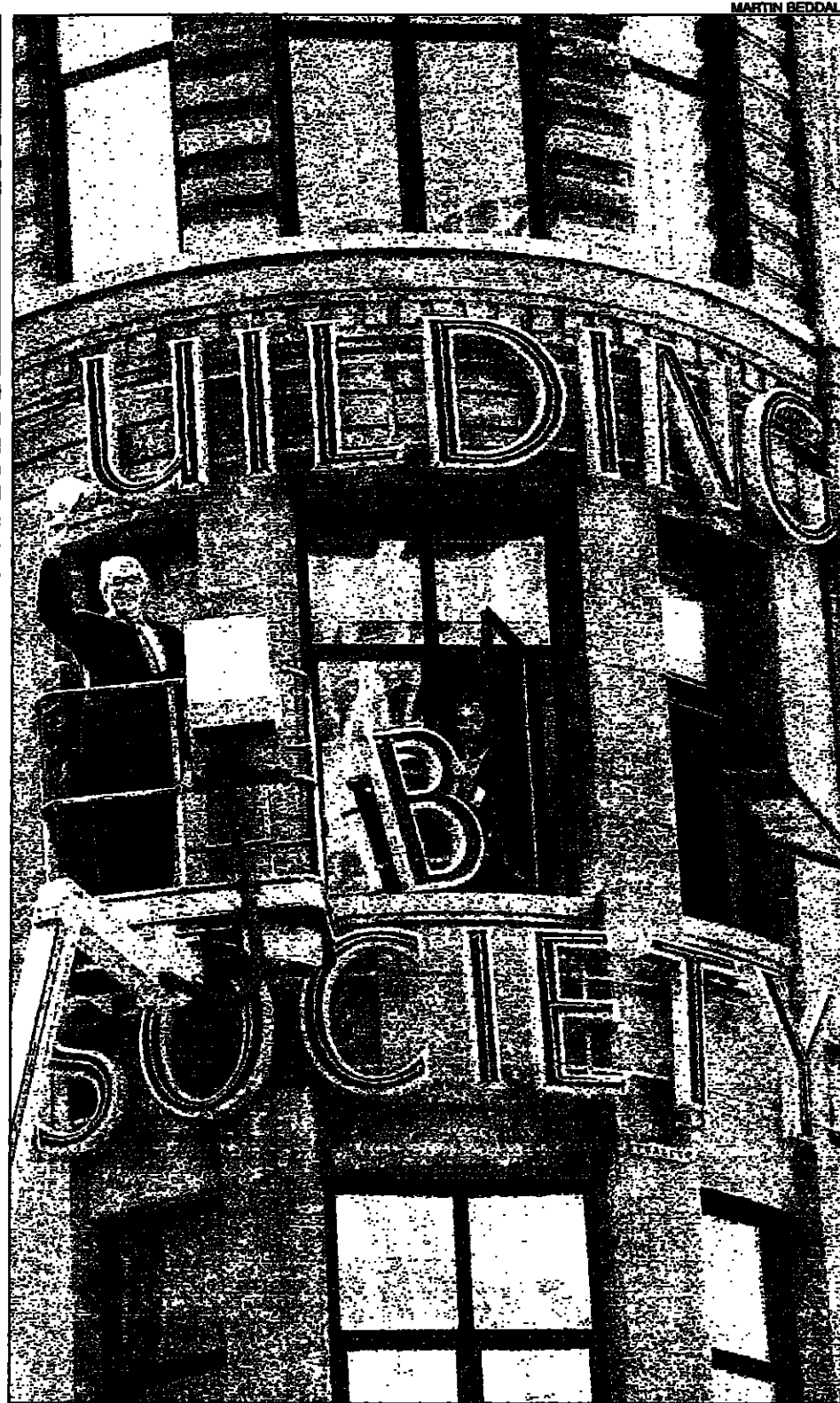
by proposing a detailed mechanism to deliver new legal initiatives on jobs.

It says that in operating the new employment chapter the EU's social affairs council, which meets later this month, would be able to draw up proposals on employment on a QMV basis, which EU member countries "shall take into account" in framing their own policies on jobs. Each EU member state would then be required to report annually to the social affairs council the steps it had taken to implement these policies.

The council, in turn, would then examine each country's report, and would have the power — again on the basis of QMV decisions — to "recommend" action to member states, which legally they would have to implement.

Finally, the social affairs council would have new powers under the employment chapter to "adopt incentive measures" on jobs, which member states would have to implement.

While the draft chapter makes it clear that this would not involve any harmonisation of laws in individual member states, opponents of the proposed chapter believe that the measure would give Brussels extensive powers to spend money on new job programmes. Germany's opposition to the employment chapter is understood to rest on this issue.



Signing off: Mike Blackburn, left, and Jon Foulds at the London Wall branch

Retailers stand by to reap benefit of Halifax float

By MARIANNE CURPHEY AND ANNE ASHWORTH

NEARLY eight million people will share in a £17 billion financial bonanza today when the Halifax Building Society floats on the stock market and becomes a bank.

The conversion of the UK's market leader in mortgages will enrich members by an average £2,300, although some could net more than £8,000.

Those who sell today using the Halifax's free share-dealing system will be able to withdraw their cash on Friday. The payout estimates have sparked hopes among retailers of a summer spending boom.

Heavy demand is expected for the shares in the first hours of trading. Conservative estimates put the opening share price at 700p, which would give an average bonus of £2,300 and a maximum payout of £8,267.

The value of stock market listed banks fell heavily on Friday amid profit-taking and reports that stocks were being sold short to deflate the sector's high rating in advance of the debut by the Halifax, where Jon Foulds is chairman and Mike Blackburn is chief executive.

Barclays Stockbrokers believes that many shareholders may decide to retain their shares in the new bank, as it is expected that the Halifax could use its cash pile to pay a special dividend. This could strengthen the price.

Holiday companies, furniture retailers, do-it-yourself

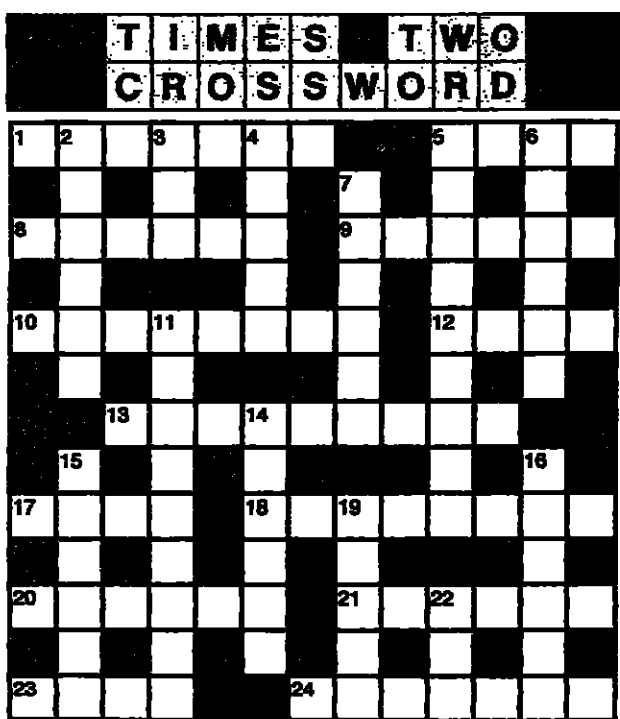
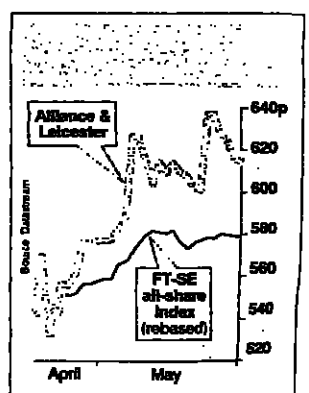
stores and carpet warehouses reported increased demand for their products after the demutualisation of the Alliance & Leicester in April, when members received an average £1,500.

A&L shares, which closed on Friday at 612p, down 2½p, have substantially outperformed the FT-SE all-share index since then.

Thomson, the biggest holiday company in the UK with a third of the market, said demand for up-market holidays, once-in-a-lifetime trips and long-haul packages had shown a huge increase in anticipation of a summer of building society conversions.

Thomson was so confident that the series of conversions this year would increase demand that it launched summer 1998 brochures six months earlier than normal.

A further two societies, the Woolwich and the Northern Rock will follow the Halifax to the stock market.



No 1109

ACROSS

- 1 Satisfy conditions; add reservation to (7)
- 5 Treaty (4)
- 8 Metrical foot, as suddenly (6)
- 9 Stale, sour (6)
- 10 Modish expression (5)
- 12 Warmth; eliminator (4)
- 13 Authenticating name (9)
- 17 Part of bird; side of stage (4)
- 18 Show proud confidence (4,4)
- 20 Norseman (6)
- 21 Most pitiable (6)
- 23 Bit of fun, banter (4)
- 24 Shameless woman; Ahab's wife (7)

DOWN

- 2 Miranda; its moon (6)
- 3 Destiny; a Fr. dept. (3)
- 4 Folded sheet; page number (5)
- 5 Emmeline —, suffragette (9)
- 6 Peak of intensity (6)
- 7 Reputation; course module (6)
- 11 Spirit of the age (9)
- 14 "Post-Christian" religion (3,3)
- 15 Literary comparison (6)
- 16 Fish; sounds like position (6)
- 19 Nearly two pints (5)
- 22 Winning serve (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1108

ACROSS: 1 Madman 4 Emerge 9 Austere 10 Rover 11 Souze 13 Dissent 14 Dab 15 Bilge 16 Gym 17 Buttons 19 Trail 21 Chord 22 Higgins 24 Exhort 25 Butler

DOWN: 1 Means 2 Disturb 3 Awe 5 Mare's nest 6 Revue 7 Erratum 8 Mendelssohn 12 Embroider 14 Debauch 16 Glacial 18 Tooth 20 Laser 23 Gnu

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Nadir seeks 'no arrest' pledge

By OLIVER AUGUST

ASIL NADIR, the tycoon wanted by the Serious Fraud Office, yesterday ruled out returning to the UK.

But Mr Nadir, who fled Britain while awaiting trial four years ago, insisted he was not a fugitive. Of the British authorities, he said: "I do not trust them sufficiently to have to go to Britain."

The tycoon is facing charges of theft and false accounting charges following the collapse of his £2.2 billion Polly Peck International empire. He fled to northern Cyprus, but recently transferred his remaining business operations to Turkey.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme last week Mr Nadir said that he hoped the Government would be "sufficiently brave to clear this matter".

Mr Nadir yesterday told Radio 5 Live: "I hope that the

new Government would find this fight of mine acceptable because if they can clear this nonsense up, then the country will be a place to live in."

He said that he would return to the UK if he had a guarantee that he would not be arrested and that the Polly Peck collapse would be examined by a public inquiry.



Nadir: lack of trust

Another site sought for movie park

By OLIVER AUGUST

WARNER Bros, the film studio, and United News & Media, the newspaper and TV company, are searching for a new location for their £225 million theme park after deciding that obtaining planning permission at a site in northwest London would be too costly (Eric Reguly writes).

The theme park, to be called Movie World, was to have been built on a largely vacant, 150-acre site in the borough of Hillingdon, north of Heathrow airport. It was to open in the summer of 1999, creating about 1,000 permanent jobs, with attractions ranging from adventure rides and the "Dirty Harry Bar" to scenes and sets from famous British films. The site was to include a working film studio.

The hunt for a new site will put the project back by a year or more. United, owner of the *Express* newspaper titles, is considering other sites, including ones between London and Birmingham. Abandoned airfields are possibilities.

Former director wins £2m pension jackpot

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE pension trust of Littlewoods, the privately owned football pools to retailing business, has been forced to pay a former director up to £2 million in back pension payments and costs after losing a two-year court battle.

Littlewoods pension trust was ordered to make the payment to Prandip Guha, who was dismissed in October 1994 for alleged gross misconduct, after the case was

taken to judicial review. Mr Guha's claim for alleged wrongful dismissal is continuing through the courts.

Mr Guha, who was international director and deputy chief executive of Littlewoods, claimed more than £1.2 million from the pension trust. The court also awarded him interest and costs.

His dismissal helped to bring to light a power struggle within the company between family members and management. The struggle escalated

as the success of the National Lottery hit the Littlewoods pools business.

The company is now in the process of buying the Freemans catalogue business from Sears and it is hoping to sell its 135-strong chain of high street shops.

Mr Guha, who now operates as a consultant in international manufacturing and trading, said he was relieved, but saddened that so much money and time had been spent on trying not to pay him.

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